

Major on a collision course over EMU date

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE government appeared to be on a collision course with Germany and other members of the European Community yesterday after the Chancellor denounced any attempt to set a fixed date for monetary union as "an inherent absurdity".

John Major's attack came only hours after a declaration by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, that Germany was willing to proceed with the next stage of European Monetary Union on January 1, 1994. Jacques Delors, chairman of the European Commission, said in response that there was now "broad convergence" on EMU among all EC countries apart from Britain.

Herr Kohl's decision to support a fixed date for the next stage and Mr Delors' attempt to underline Britain's isolation came at a particularly embarrassing time for Mr Major, who was preparing to

deliver his annual address on monetary policy at the Mansion House banquet last night. Shortly before the Chancellor spoke, the pound fell below its exchange-rate mechanism central parity of DM2.95, partly as a result of scepticism in the markets about the government's attitude to full monetary union.

The Chancellor's speech dwelt at length on the advantages of membership of the exchange-rate mechanism, which Britain entered two weeks ago. But it also suggested implacable opposition to the kind of fixed timetable for EMU that all the other members seem to have agreed.

Mr Major said there was "an inherent absurdity in arguing about the length or date" of stage two in the three-step progress towards full monetary union. Stage two is the point when all members would irrevocably lock their exchange rates and set up a European central bank. Instead, governments should concentrate on practical steps to encourage convergence of economic performance and encourage the voluntary use of the European currency unit (euro), the Chancellor said.

Until yesterday, the Treasury and Foreign Office had hoped that the Germans would tacitly endorse this approach, because the German Bundesbank had frequently expressed concern about monetary union before economic conditions were appropriate. Britain also believed that Spain and Denmark might back its scepticism about a rapid move to stage two, but both are now believed to have lined up with the other EC members.

M Delors said yesterday that a commitment to set a date would "disarm all the warnings and wipe out scepticism". He hoped the Rome summit at the end of this month would back Herr Kohl's proposal. Earlier, M Delors had sought 1993 as the entry year but was willing to delay as long as a firm date was fixed.

M Delors urged EC members to do their best to make the present phase of EMU a success. He added: "Experience has shown that political will, even if not enough to achieve the integration of economies, is nevertheless indispensable in getting member states to commit themselves to a result."

Mr Major's speech came as the public spending round neared completion with Treasury sources predicting that next year's total could break through the £200 billion barrier for the first time. For the fourth successive year the star chamber will not be necessary after the agreement on the schools budget. Details will be disclosed in the autumn statement next month.

Mr Major's words in the City were seen by Conservative MPs last night as a further signal that the general election will come later rather than sooner. His rejection of the idea of a six-month economic honeymoon triggered by ERM membership was seen as ruling out the prospect of an election as early as June next year.

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ANTI-ABORTIONISTS failed last night in their final attempt to stop late abortions of babies found to be severely handicapped. In a free "conscience" vote, the Lords rejected 133-89 an amendment by Catholics and the pro-life lobby to tighten the conditions carried out after 24 weeks. Page 9

Abortion vote

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EMERGENCY ENDS
President de Klerk has formally ended the four-year state of emergency in South Africa by lifting its provisions in Natal, the scene of chronic strife between rival black organizations. Page 12

Liver warning

Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, issued a warning that pregnant women should not eat liver because of a possible risk to their unborn babies of vitamin A poisoning. Page 22

Stewart stays

Micky Stewart, the England cricket team manager, disclosed that his contract has been extended for another two years. Page 36

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Corporal Myles Sharman from Leicester (left) and John Shonfield from Reading, on patrol in Saudi Arabia where the first of the 7th Brigade's heavy equipment, including armoured personnel carriers, arrived by ship

Thatcher and Kinnock clash on education

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND DAVID TYTLER

THE growing political argument over education erupted in the Commons yesterday in an altercation between Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock in which she called the Labour leader a crypto-communist.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher was a crank after she repeated her support for a system of educational vouchers which would enable parents to buy a state or private education of their choice.

The clash came as John MacGregor, the education secretary, announced that all seven-year-olds will be given a standard national reading examination in a compulsory test agreed by him and Mrs Thatcher on Wednesday. Announcing the new streamlined testing in mathematics, English and science, Mr MacGregor said that the compulsory testing would concentrate on the basic skills of reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic, with some basic science. Teachers would also be expected to judge their pupils in the extra skills

demanded by the national curriculum. After a party conference season which saw the two party leaders place their conflicting education policies at the top of the agenda for the next election, the tensions between them boiled over in an exchange of insults rare even by their standards.

Mr Kinnock laughed out loud at the "crypto-communist" jibe, saying: "It is a

long time since we had quite such a tantrum."

As Conservative MPs on the centre-right voiced satisfaction last night at confirmation that Mrs Thatcher remains strongly in favour of the voucher idea, others repeated misgivings over the resurrection of a proposal they thought buried. Her remark that the existing city technology colleges grant-maintained schools and money following the pupil represented virtually a voucher system was seen by the right as an attempt to make vouchers seem a natural development of policy.

Labour leadership sources were claiming outright success in what they admitted had been an attempt by Mr Kinnock to highlight divisions between Mrs Thatcher and Mr MacGregor over vouchers. Mrs Thatcher's reference to vouchers in her Bournemouth speech continued on page 22, col 5

CRYPTO-COMMUNIST!
PRIME MINISTER

Voucher clash, page 9
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Pilots attacked in M1 report

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE long-awaited report into the Kegworth air disaster was published by the Department of Transport yesterday with 31 safety recommendations and some stinging criticism of the two pilots, their training and the effectiveness of the plane's instruments.

Both of the British Midland pilots, says the report "reacted to the emergency before they had any positive evidence of which engine was operating abnormally. Their incorrect diagnosis of the problem must therefore be attributed to their too rapid reaction and

never heard of a Patonzi, and that the true value should be £200.

Paul Galland, a trading standards officer, believes there are "hundreds of fakes in this country alone, and that may be a conservative estimate". He does not know the extent of the problem abroad.

Birmingham trading standards office seized up to 20 violins, violas and cellos on October 4, that have been declared fakes by experts.

Methods of duping the dealers and the public have included "antiquing" brand new instruments, and giving factory-made instruments false labels, claiming they were from the hand of some Italian or French master.

The instruments seized include one described on its accompanying ticket as "Italian by Patonzi of Cremona, 1926" and offered at £2,000 including VAT. Experts say that they have

described instrument will come forward with further information. "There is a cell of people involved in faking and misdescribing in this country and they may have been getting away with it for years. We want to warn the public," Mr Galland said.

The Times reported in May that Graham Wells, Sotheby's expert, was initially fooled by fake Pedrazzini and Pollastri violins entering the market, until Mr Ted Stollar, his colleague at Phillips, called his attention to the deception. Christie's went to the police after selling a fake.

After making enquiries in the Birmingham area, the trading standards office took a number of instruments on approval, subsequently moving in. "Four of us went in, and then sent for further people when we realised how many had to be seized," said Mr Galland.

His office has not yet brought any prosecutions. It is hoping that people who believe they may own a mis-

described instrument will come forward with further information. "There is a cell of people involved in faking and misdescribing in this country and they may have been getting away with it for years. We want to warn the public," Mr Galland said.

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Desert Rats' finances improve on move to Saudi Arabia

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE 9,500 men and women of the 7th Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats, will be better off financially by being deployed to Saudi Arabia, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday.

The defence ministry said they would eat and sleep free of charge while serving in Saudi Arabia.

Married service personnel would also receive a 50 per cent rebate on the accommodation charge they paid for their living quarters in Germany.

A complex financial package has been worked out to ensure that none of the service personnel on operational duty in

the Gulf receives less pay at the end of each month. In a written parliamentary answer, Mr King said that the majority would receive more. Anyone shown to be receiving less would be compensated.

None of the soldiers, airmen and sailors will, however, be awarded "danger money". Mr King explained that the basic pay remained the same wherever soldiers were stationed. This included an "x-factor" of 10.5 per cent for men and 9.5 per cent for women, which recognised the disadvantages of service life, such as the requirement to operate in potentially dangerous conditions.

The 50 per cent rebate on accommodation charges for married men and

women deployed with the 7th Armoured Brigade from Germany ranges from 16p to 68p a day. Those who are single will have the whole charge waived while in Saudi Arabia.

A small number of servicemen, mainly warrant officers and majors, would have been worse off without the 50 per cent rebate.

One reason is that the local overseas allowance, paid to all servicemen abroad if living expenses are higher than in Britain, will be reduced for those deployed to the Gulf. Living in Saudi Arabia would be cheaper than in Germany, the defence ministry said.

In addition to the rebate, married

service personnel will receive a daily separation allowance of £2.84, irrespective of rank, once they have been away from home for more than 30 days.

This is the normal rate for any overseas posting. It is expected that all those sent to Saudi Arabia and other parts of the region will be on six month tours of duty.

None of the servicemen who took part in the Falklands conflict in 1982 was paid extra money. Since then, a small number of service personnel who have been sent to the South Atlantic on several short tours have been paid an extra £3.16p a day for working unsocial hours. Soldiers on similar short tours in

Northern Ireland, who have to work long hours, also receive the additional daily payment.

The announcement on pay and allowances was made as the Desert Rats continued to deploy to Saudi Arabia at the rate of six flights a day from Hamburg. Yesterday the British Airways jumbo jet which has been chartered by the defence ministry was used for the first time.

The first ship carrying equipment for the Desert Rats has also arrived in Saudi Arabia.

The 12,000-ton Danish-flagged Dama Cimbra berthed at a north-eastern Saudi port after a three-week voyage

from Bremerhaven in Germany. The ship was met at the quayside by Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, and Major General John Hopkins, deputy commanding general of the US 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The Desert Rats are to be located with the American marines.

The roll-on roll-off ferry was carrying armoured personnel carriers, eight-ton and four-ton trucks, tank transporters, armoured recovery vehicles and Land Rovers.

The first of the 120 Challenger tanks are due to arrive tomorrow on board the landing ship Sir Bedivere.

Civil service 'squandering talent of top graduates'

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's most exclusive trade unions, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, yesterday accused Whitehall mandarins of squandering talent in its recruitment of high flying "fast stream" graduates.

An alternative guide to careers in the civil service, published by the 10,500-strong union, whose members play a pivotal role in shaping and implementing government policy, says that bias in the corridors of power continues to favour white, male, Oxbridge students with arts degrees.

It advises graduates who advise money to be a main motivating force in a career not to consider a future with the civil service. The union grades cover top civil service permanent secretaries for lawyers, economists, policy advisers and other strategic planners.

Remuneration, the union says, will never finance the high life. "Compared to other high flyers, fast stream civil servants do rather badly." Furthermore, the gap between their salary and that of high flying university contemporaries gets wider as careers progress.

The guide reminds honours degree and other graduate applicants that there is more to life than money, "such as a satisfying and stimulating job". It adds, however: "Whilst the Foreign and Commonwealth Office looks good on the CV, it really does

not qualify you for much else."

Last year women comprised 47 per cent of applicants for administration, management and diplomatic service fast stream jobs but only 35 per cent of successful candidates. Only one person from the 385 ethnic minority applicants passed the selection procedure.

The union guide finds little evidence of overt discrimination but says bias is towards selection of those who are perceived to "fit in". It asks: "Will this bias inevitably continue to favour those with a preponderance of male hormones, white skin, Oxbridge arts degrees and carrying umbrellas?"

"We hope not. We feel that the process is increasingly geared towards those who are good at passing selection systems, the reasonable and intelligent people, with the emphasis on the 'out-going yet conformist team leader'." The guide adds: "A sizeable number of able, intelligent people are failing unnecessarily by the wayside. The Civil Service Commission must tackle this problem."

The union says: "Experiences vary from life in a minister's private office where an individual will acquire talents in the management of thinly concealed chaos, to the department of health, which offers the opportunity to work in Alexander Fleming House, a 1960s constructivist nightmare."

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Animal rights activists protesting against the export of live animals for slaughter try to block the path of a P&O ferry entering Dover yesterday

Gas prices due to go up again

BRITAIN'S 17 million gas consumers will face a rise in bills for the second time this year from November 1. Prices will increase by between 3.3 and 3.7 per cent, giving a total rise of 11 per cent this year.

British Gas said the changes will add less than 4p to the daily cost of gas central heating in an three-bedroom semi-detached house. Standing charges will be unchanged.

James McKinnon, director general of Ofgas, said that the industry watchdog will examine the increase.

College adds year to its degrees

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR engineering school added a year to its degrees yesterday and said it might have to run five-year courses if changes under consideration for A-level mathematics are implemented.

Imperial College, London, will cease to offer bachelors degrees in engineering in 1992 because students can no longer match the knowledge of their counterparts in mainland Europe after three years. The first degree in all branches of engineering will be a four-

year masters course. Sir Eric Ash, college rector, said that concerns about standards in schools had played only a minor part in the college's decision, but he expressed alarm at new proposals to drop the study of calculus in order to broaden A-level mathematics courses. "As far as engineering is concerned, calculus is essential. If they really going to produce an A-level without it, we would be talking about five years to match the Germans."

Sir Eric said that the college was not advocating a general switch to four-year degrees, although he hoped to see Imperial apply the changes to science courses eventually.

• Plans for a new polytechnic to serve west London and the Thames Valley were announced yesterday. Subject to government approval, the institution will be a merger of Ealing College of Higher Education and Thames Valley college, in Slough. The London College of Music may be invited to join.

Price cuts as petrol war starts

ESSO, Britain's biggest petrol retailer, yesterday cut the cost of a gallon of four-star by 4.5p to 22.6p (49.9p a litre) and unleaded to 21.3p (46.9p). Diesel remains unchanged.

The third price cut in a month, it underlines the rapid fall in petrol prices since the fall on world markets, reassured by relative calm in the Gulf and plentiful supplies.

Esso was left trailing in the wake of an 8.6p price reduction by Shell on Wednesday, which sparked a round of cuts among oil firms.

Young's job

Atlanta - Andrew Young, the former United Nations envoy and black civil rights leader, said he had joined the executive staff of an Atlanta engineering firm. But he did not rule out running for another political office in the future. (Reuters)

Housing market to pick up with 1991 price rises

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF is in sight for the housing market in spite of a 2.9 per cent fall in prices in the third quarter of this year, the Nationwide Anglia Building Society said in a survey published yesterday.

Although it expects prices to be down by between 5 and 10 per cent by the end of the year, there should be a rise of at least 5 per cent next year. That view is supported by Black Horse Relocation, a subsidiary of Lloyds bank, which suggests that prices will increase by between 5 and 10 per cent a year in the South in 1991 and 1992, and by half that amount in the North.

Nationwide Anglia argues that Britain's entry to the European exchange-rate mechanism, which has triggered a cut in interest rates, should put a floor under house prices. Any further cuts are likely to start a recovery in the housing market that would start with more sales and be followed by modest price rises.

The effect of lower mortgage rates is likely to be reinforced by the lower ratio of earnings to house prices, which is regarded as an accurate guide to the health of the market. The figure now stands at an estimated 3.88 compared with a peak of 4.65 in the second quarter of last year, according to Nationwide Anglia. In the past, a figure below four has indicated a balance that allows people to buy and sell.

At the end of last month house prices were in real terms 18 to 19 per cent lower than a year ago, but the third quarter of this year "may have been the bottom of the current cycle".

In the last quarter, only

UK house prices 3rd quarter 1990

	New £	Modern £	Older £	All £
Detached house	120,783	120,976	154,912	130,088
Semi-detached	64,137	63,681	79,468	71,287
Flats	55,119	55,314	58,103	57,858
Other	59,160	60,709	62,251	61,521
Change in quarter %	-1.4	-1.9	-3.2	-2.9
Annual change %	-7.0	-6.7	-7.6	-6.8

* Other properties are bungalows, flats and maisonettes.

London test for noise watch

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE government's proposal to reduce noise levels will not be incorporated into a single white paper but will be "hooked" on to pieces of appropriate legislation and used for amendments to bills and local government circulars, David Heathcoat-Amory, the environment minister, said yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of a report by a working party into noise levels, which was chaired by the former civil servant, James Batho, the minister said that a pilot neighbourhood scheme for controlling noise would be

started, probably in London, next month. It would be voluntary because "we do not want an army of vigilante snoops". Where there were persistent parties with excessive noise, they could be dealt with by abatement notices.

The minister said that more should be done to control acid house parties. He is considering making it an offence to allow premises to be used for their parties if there was excessive noise, and of taking action against the suppliers of sound equipment.

The maximum fine for domestic noise will be main-

tained at £2,000 but fines for excessive industrial noise will increase to £20,000. The only concrete proposal adopted by the government is a mandatory control on burglar alarms which will have to cut out after 20 minutes.

The minister said that he would be considering compensation on a sliding scale for people who live next to noisy roads. He would also be considering the possibility of measuring vehicle noise in the annual MoT tests.

The maximum fine for

Car crash kills three policemen

Three detectives were killed yesterday when their police car was involved in a head-on crash with a lorry on the A40 near Sevenoaks, Powys, mid Wales.

Another suffered serious head injuries and was taken to hospital in Brecon after being cut free by firemen. The four are members of the Dyfed-Powys force. The lorry driver was uninjured.

It was the second fatal accident involving a police vehicle in the county within 24 hours. On Wednesday, David Evans, aged 43, a quantity surveyor from Kerry, Newtown, Powys, was killed when his Saab and a police driving school car crashed near Welshpool. Three policemen in the car are detained in hospital with serious injuries.

Parachutist in St Paul's

A man with a makeshift parachute made an indoor jump from the whispering gallery in St Paul's cathedral, central London, yesterday, landing in the crowded nave. The man described as black-haired and wearing dark clothing, apparently opened his parachute before jumping the 102 ft from the gallery. He hit some chairs on landing but was apparently unharmed. He and an accomplice then gathered up his canopy and sprinted from the church chased by officials. He is being sought by City of London police. Canon Christopher Hill said that the action was "stupid, dangerous and extremely irresponsible".

Deportation appeals fail

The delegating of deportation decisions from the Home Office to senior officers in the immigration service has been declared legal by five Law Lords, who dismissed two test cases appealed.

Up to 500 immigrants now face deportation. Nigerian-born Shamsuddeen Oladeinde, of Clapham, southwest London, and Julius Alexander, of Hackney, east London, had contested the policy introduced in 1988.

Law report, page 36

Abuse survey

A total of 1,812 children have been sexually abused by 186 organised paedophile rings in the last three years, according to a survey among 39 of Britain's 52 police forces. Conducted by BBC's *Eye* programme, to be broadcast tonight, the survey shows that there were 349 paedophiles operating in sex rings. Only five of the cases, however, involved allegations of sadistic or ritual abuse.

Bicycle chained

The bicycle might be banned from part of Cambridge city centre between 10am and 4pm after approval of a draft pedestrian-only scheme by the county council's transport committee yesterday. Cycles and cars will be prohibited in Sidney Street, St John's Street, Trinity Street and Market Street if the council approves the scheme next month. Residents are expected to object during public consultation.

Stevens plea

Ulster Unionists yesterday called for the team led by John Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, to relinquish control of prosecutions arising from its investigation into collusion between the security forces and Loyalist paramilitaries.

Union man dies

Peter Burns, aged 54, an executive member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, died yesterday after a brief illness. A member of the Labour party national executive committee, he was the union's chief negotiator for government establishments.

Source: Times reported
Australia 500,000; Belgium 51,000;
Canada 200,000; Chile 200,000;
Denmark 10,000; France 10,000;
Germany 200,000; Greece 20,000; Israel
10,000; Italy 20,000; Japan 200,000;
Netherlands 20,000; Norway 4,000;
Portugal 20,000; Sweden 5,000;
Switzerland 1,000; USA 500,000;
UK 200,000; Venezuela 20,000.

LEAVES OTHER CAR MAGAZINES STANDING

Top in Cars

Call for reforms to end appointment of 'stereotype' judges

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL reform of the way judges are appointed, to rid the bench of the stereotype of "monochrome male middle-aged judges", was called for yesterday by Tony Holland, president of the Law Society.

Addressing 1,000 solicitors at the society's annual conference in Glasgow, Mr Holland said: "There is a growing concern that the system for appointment is not serving the purposes of the public now rightly expect of our judiciary." If the system was not reformed, it would be "somewhere near 2030 before we can expect to see a judiciary equally balanced between men and women, and with an appropriate mix from ethnic minorities. Are we all supposed to wait patiently until then?"

Mr Holland rejected positive discrimination for female and black candidates for the judiciary but the system had to be examined to see where unwitting discrimination occurred. He suggested appointing High Court judges

from the circuit bench to create a tiered and more structured judicial career. He also suggested examining the role of a judicial appointments commission to help the Lord Chancellor and his officials in their job of appointing judges.

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"Is it any wonder that these procedures produce a judiciary almost entirely in the image of its previous generation?" Mr Holland said there was a need for a review of the procedures for appointing judges, including the qualification, selection, training and promotion of all levels of the judiciary. The Law Society has started such a review and would be issuing proposals for change in the new year.

Mr Holland questioned whether judges drawn from such a narrow group were equipped to cope with the increasingly complex public policy choices that will fall to them. "Can an almost exclusively male judiciary be expected to carry public confidence when recognition of the right of women to an equal voice in public, business, social and family life is now almost universal?"

His concern had been heightened, he added, by judicial opposition to the government's reforms of the legal profession. "Neither the manner nor the tone of that opposition did the judiciary any credit." He was also concerned at the way proposals from the Lord Chancellor's civil justice review for a unified court structure was "struck down at birth by the opposition of the judiciary."

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He urged the government to join with the Law Society to control the rising cost of legal aid. "We are prepared to help to identify and tackle areas of inefficiency - including any which may be our profession's responsibility - and to commit the necessary resources on our side," Mr Holland said that the government should be committed to tackling factors

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Bail change urged to reduce inmates held on remand

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A REFORM of the Bail Act 1976 to cut the number of defendants remanded in custody by the courts will be called for today at Lord Justice Woolf's seminar on prisons under the criminal justice system.

There is growing support among penal groups for tightening the criteria that courts use when remanding defendants in custody. Concern also exists that about 40 per cent of remand prisoners in England and Wales, who are held in conditions generally regarded as the worst in the prison system, are ultimately acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence by the courts.

The problem of the high proportion of prisoners on remand was highlighted by the riots at Strangeways in April where nearly 700 of the 1,646 prisoners were on remand. Penal groups say that if these inmates had not been there, the prison, which was designed for 997 inmates, would not have been overcrowded.

The inconsistency between courts over whether or not a defendant should be granted bail is also causing concern. The 1976 act states that a defendant must not be given bail when there are substantial grounds for believing he or she is likely to abscond, commit an offence on bail or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. Courts, however, interpret these criteria differently. When Douglas Hurd was home secretary he acknowledged that there seemed to be no reason for the size of the divergence.

Options for amending the Bail Act to reduce the number of remands in custody will be put forward today by a senior official from the National



Mary Miers, one of the report's authors, at Cambusnethan Priory, a building which has fallen victim to vandalism.

Scottish castles abandoned to their fate

By JOHN YOUNG

THE plight of many of Scotland's most spectacular and romantic castles and country houses is highlighted in a new illustrated survey by Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE), described as the most sensational collection of decaying buildings ever published.

From the Borders to the Hebrides hundreds of country houses have been neglected and abandoned to the mercy of the elements, the report says. Some were deserted after wartime requisitioning, abandoned

after serious fire damage or crudely adapted for agricultural storage. Others have fallen prey to vandalism and systematic looting, and many have been written off as lost causes.

"Yet a large number could still be saved if the right forces could be motivated," the report says. "For a country fiercely proud of its heritage it is grim knowledge that so many of its historic houses are in danger."

The situation is in marked contrast with England and Wales, where it is now relatively rare to find an important country house abandoned

to decay, the report says. In Scotland, economic regeneration and increased prosperity, together with a growing appreciation of historic buildings as potential assets, offer renewed hope, but the increase in the number of houses which have been rescued is overshadowed by starker realities.

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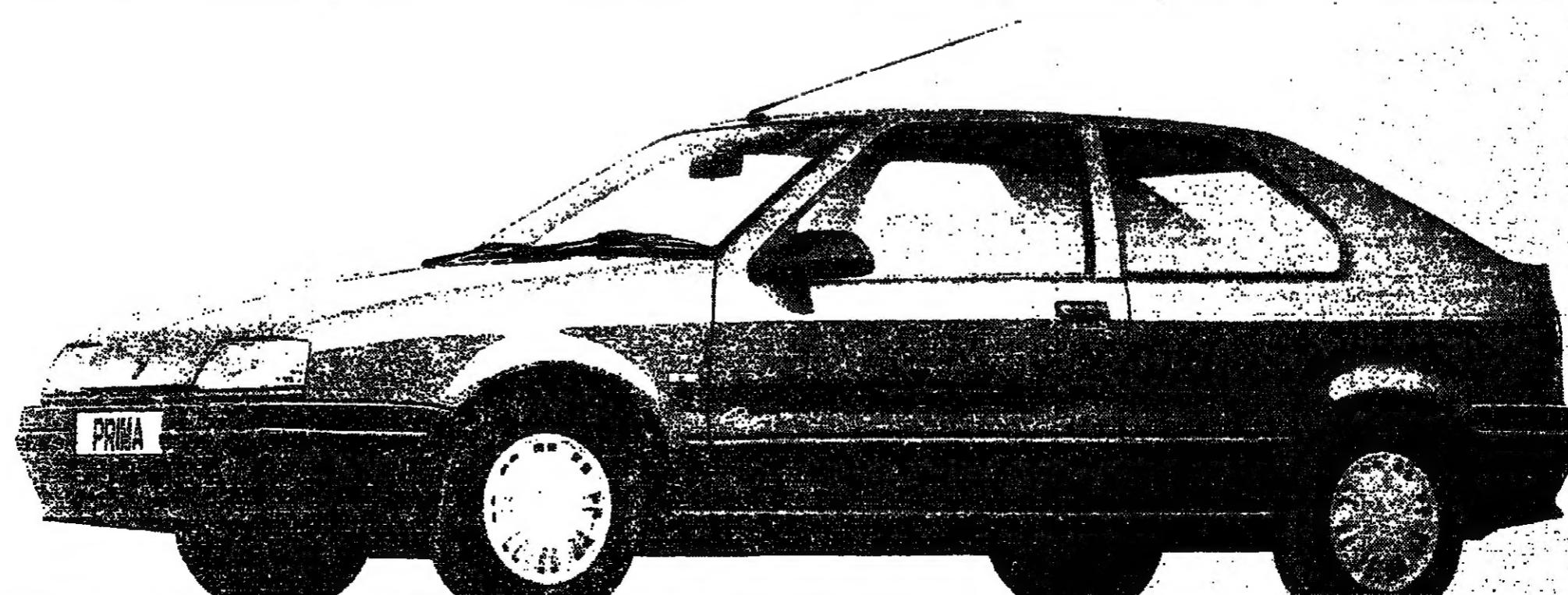
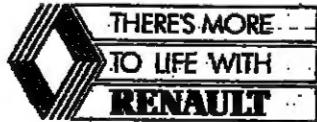
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Call for reforms to end appointment of 'stereotype' judges

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL reform of the way judges are appointed, to rid the bench of the stereotype of "monochrome male middle-aged judges", was called for yesterday by Tony Holland, president of the Law Society.

Addressing 1,000 solicitors at the society's annual conference in Glasgow, Mr Holland said: "There is a growing concern that the system for appointment is not serving the purposes of the public now rightly expect of our judiciary." If the system was not reformed, it would be "somewhere near 2030 before we can expect to see a judiciary equally balanced between men and women, and with an appropriate mix from ethnic minorities. Are we all supposed to wait patiently until then?"

Mr Holland rejected positive discrimination for female and black candidates for the judiciary but the system had to be examined to see where unwitting discrimination occurred. He suggested appointing High Court judges

from the circuit bench to create a tiered and more structured judicial career. He also suggested examining the role of a judicial appointments commission to help the Lord Chancellor and his officials in their job of appointing judges.

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Mr Holland questioned whether judges drawn from such a narrow group were equipped to cope with the increasingly complex public policy choices that will fall to them. "Can an almost exclusively male judiciary be expected to carry public confidence when recognition of the right of women to an equal voice in public, business, social and family life is now almost universal?"

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The president's call comes at a time when officials at the Lord Chancellor's department are engaged in a review of the legal aid scheme that could result in its biggest shake-up for 40 years. One proposal is that everyone should be allowed legal aid for personal injury claims, as long as they pay contributions.

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to decay, the report says. In Scotland, economic regeneration and increased prosperity, together with a growing appreciation of historic buildings as potential assets, offer renewed hope, but the increase in the number of houses which have been rescued is overshadowed by starker realities.

The most immediate threat is that most of the houses, dissociated from their original function, are empty or under used. A factor which contributed to many a rapid decline was the policy of deliberately removing the roof which, under Scottish law until

the middle of this century, was necessary in order to avoid having to continue to pay rates. But man, as well as nature, is also to blame. "All too often the major ingredient in a building's demise lies in the attitude of the owner."

The report says that the state of many of the 140 buildings illustrated in the survey is scandalous, adding that damage inflicted upon them is, in some instances, wilful.

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April 1st

Pilots' hasty action 'made M1 jet crash inevitable'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

PILOTS of the British Midland Boeing 737, which crashed on the M1 in January last year, with the loss of 47 lives, suffered from a "final misconception" that actions they had taken "in haste" to deal with an in-flight emergency had been correct, according to the official report into the accident published yesterday.

By shutting down the right-hand engine when the problem lay in the left they made the crash inevitable, the air accident investigation branch says in its 152-page report. The pilots acted with a speed which was contrary to their training and the instructions in their operations manual, the report says.

"If they had taken more time to study the engine instruments it should have been apparent that the No 2 engine indications were normal and that the No 1 engine was behaving erratically. In the event both pilots reacted to the emergency before they had any positive evidence of which engine was operating abnormally. Their incorrect diagnosis of the problem must therefore be attributed to their too rapid reaction and not to any failure of the engine instrument system to display the correct indications."

The report, which contains 31 safety recommendations, says that the cause of the accident was that the crew shut down the No 2 engine after a fan blade had fractured in the No 1 engine. They incorrectly responded to the emergency because a combination of heavy engine vibration, noise, shuddering and an associated smell of fire were outside their training and experience. They reacted to the initial engine

By PAUL WILKINSON

CASUALTIES in the Kegworth aircraft crash could have been reduced if the passengers had used a more effective position to brace themselves for the impact, a report on the causes of injuries sustained in the disaster says.

Instructions on what position to take in a crash are inadequate in many cases, it says. More detailed instruction should be given, possibly by video, and should take precedence over the usual lifebelt demonstration.

British Midland, owners of the crash jet, said last night that the bracing position recommended in the report was being implemented immediately. John Wolfe, group managing director, said: "New instruction cards are being produced and should be in place by mid-November."

The report was produced by a study group consisting of researchers from Nottingham university medical school, doctors from the four hospitals where the survivors were treated and H.W. Structures, the Midlands engineering consultants.

The report, commissioned

by the Civil Aviation Authority, also makes a number of other safety recommendations which would radically affect the way in which passenger aircraft are designed and built. They include installing rear facing seats, strengthening aircraft floors, anchoring seats to the fuselage as well as the floor, eliminating or strengthening over-seat storage bins and redesigning seats to reduce impact injury.

The doctors make recommendations on improvements in the medical treatment of survivors after the accident. Their advised

Leaning forward with arms round the head, holding lower legs slightly back behind the knees reduces limb "fisting" and injury. Well padded arm rests. Padded calf support. During take-off whole seat reclines. Recommended brace position and safety seat.

crash brace position offered "significant protection against head injury and concussion". This involved clasping the hands firmly on top of the head with elbows tucked outside knees. The head should rest against the structure in front and the legs positioned with the feet together, slightly behind the knees.

The position was worked out by a computer simulation, using evidence from the scene and from survivors' statements to re-create the moment of impact of the Boeing 737.

"It is considered to be more likely that, believing the first officer had seen positive indications on the engine instruments, he provisionally accepted the first officer's assessment."

The report says that tests showed that the No 1 engine vibration indicator was at the top of its scale within two seconds of the onset of vibration and remained there for about three minutes until that engine was throttled back for descent. "Yet it appears that the reading on this indicator was not noticed by either pilot and this indicates a weakness in training philosophy."

Lockerbie jigsaw clue to bomb

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

AN AIR accident expert described yesterday how painstaking reconstruction of wreckage from the Lockerbie air crash uncovered a tiny piece of the bomb that blew up the aircraft, killing 270 people.

Michael Charles, principal inspector at the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, said that it was established on Christmas Day, 1988 that a bomb had brought down the plane four days earlier.

Mr Charles told the disaster enquiry in Dumfries that piecing together the fuselage wreckage showed the blast had occurred in the forward luggage hold of the Pan Am Boeing 747. Two containers showing evidence of blast damage were rebuilt and it was established that the explosion took place in one of them.

He said a "buckled piece of skin" was found. "As it was prised open we found inside a piece of printed circuit board. This related to a type of radio-cassette player which had been fitted with an explosive device."

The enquiry continues today.

Fourth game heads for draw after Kasparov fightback

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

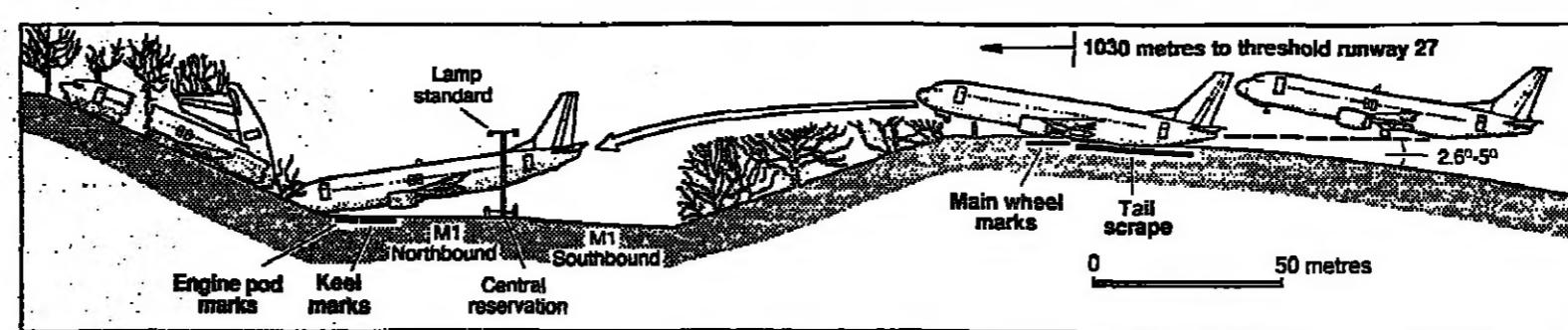
THE fourth game of the World Chess Championship in New York has been adjourned after 40 moves in a position where Kasparov, playing white, can force a draw with Karpov by perpetual check. Indeed, the most likely outcome is that they will agree to a draw without resuming.

The route to the drawn conclusion was, however, strewn with the most extraordinary complications and at one time Kasparov, faced with a massive material inferiority, was clinging on for dear life.

Until the 22nd move play in game 4 followed theoretical precedent. Even though Karpov thought for a record 53 minutes over his 19th move the position was still recognisable as chess book theory. The revelation was Kasparov's 22nd move, a brilliant retreat of his bishop instead of recapturing a knight which had just been taken. Kasparov reacted with equal vigour. The world champion sacrificed every pawn he had on the queen-side and in the centre in the interests of trying



The adjourned position in the fourth game



Priority for engine testing

THE 31 safety recommendations contained in the report fall into three main areas.

Eleven of the recommendations relate to detailed technical monitoring and improvement in the manufacture and testing of engines. Eight more call for improved training methods ranging from better advice on interpreting vibration instruments to guidance for air traffic controllers on using a direct radio frequency when an aircraft is in an emergency.

The rest of the report concentrates on new designs such as television monitors showing the outside of the aircraft, improved seat design, stronger cabin floors and overhead lockers that will not burst open in flight.

The Civil Aviation Authority said last night that it wholly accepted 25 of the recommendations and partly accepted the remaining six. Action has been taken on 12 and research is going on into others.

Multiple rapist hunted

Police in Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire have joined forces in a hunt for a multiple rapist (Craig Seton writes).

Detectives said yesterday that the victims were professional women living alone who were raped in their homes in the early hours. The first known attack was in Milton Keynes in June last year. The second was in Reading in January and a third in Leamington Spa. Police believe that other women might not have reported attacks.

Detectives are certain that the same man carried out the rapes. They suspect that he watches his intended victims and attacks when they are alone. The rapist is described as black or of mixed race, aged between 20 and 30, with a spotty complexion and a deep voice.

Book price ruling

The publishers of the Booker Prize-winning novel and the other short-listed books was granted a court order yesterday banning their sale at discount prices in Scotland. The publishers took the Pentos Retailing Group to the Court of Session in Edinburgh. The move prevents Pentos selling the novels at less than the prices set under the net book agreement and follows similar court action in England.

Pekinese theft

Malcolm Watson, a dog breeder and international show judge, was found guilty yesterday of stealing a £1,000 prize Pekinese puppy from the garden of its owner. The thief came to light four years later after he sold it to another breeder under a false name. Chelmsford Crown Court was told, Watson, aged 37, of Benfleet, Essex, who denied stealing the animal, was fined £200.

Rude awakening

Robert Coombs, aged 43, a council water station fitter, of Bournemouth, who fell and injured his back after standing on a sleeping cat in long grass in 1985, was awarded £39,054 damages in the High Court yesterday. The judge found Christchurch borough council to blame as Mr Coombs had warned it about the grass.

Safeway fined

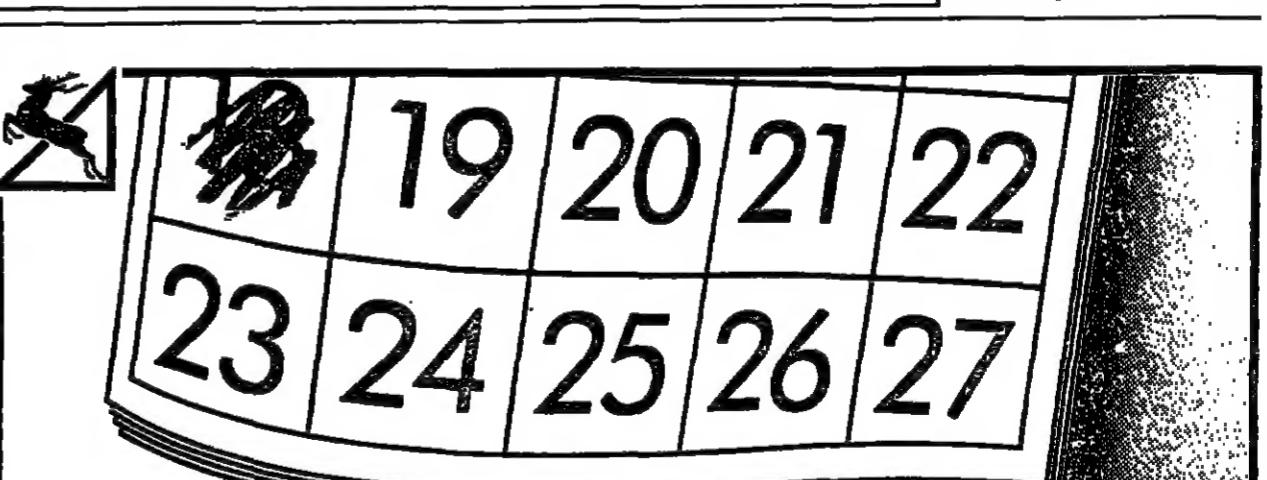
Safeway was fined a total of £4,500 by Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday for overcharging at three stores in the city. Safeway admitted three separate charges of overcharging at branches in August last year. Not guilty pleas to offences at two other branches were accepted.

Crews express fears about electronic display panels

CONCERN about the design of the new electronic instrument display panels clearly but its ability to attract attention to rapidly changing readings was less satisfactory. The latter aspect was, however, less important in the case of this accident because the crew were alerted to abnormal operation by other signs and had time, or should have had, to study engine instrument readings.

The report also underlines the need for improved training techniques to ensure that pilots are able to practise both how to interpret new instruments and how to cope with unusual circumstances. Each pilot had only one day's training on the use of the new instruments because no fully-equipped simulator was then available. "The result of this pattern of training was that the first time that a pilot was likely to see abnormal indications on the EIS was in flight in an aircraft with a failing engine," the report says.

In the pilots' general 737 simulator training virtually all engine problems which are created artificially result in an engine shutdown. "Since this crew would have been under both practical and psychological pressure to come up with a programme of action, it cannot be regarded as surprising that the actions they embarked upon were those that they had practised."



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Sophie. She enjoyed meeting
Rani the Elephant at the Circus.
Sophie says, "She must have
liked me 'cause when I left
she gave me a big wet kiss."

PIRELLI MARELLA DOLCE & GABBANA
DOLCE & GABBANA

PIRELLI MARELLA DOLCE & GABBANA
DOLCE & GABBANA



Sophie's Striped Backless Cardigan £11.99 PEOPLE by PIRELLI

Cabinet big spenders inflict defeat on the Treasury hard men

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

Kenneth Clarke, Chris Patten and Tom King appear to be the winners in the annual Whitehall spending sweepstakes.

A steward's enquiry could still be held when the official figures are revealed in the Treasury's autumn statement next month. But the signs as the most hard-fought contest for a decade came to a close yesterday were that the health, environment and defence secretaries had the most cause for satisfaction.

For once the hard-faced men of the Treasury felt that they were labouring under an impossible handicap. When the outcome is disclosed in November it may well be that for the first time the nation's spending bill will exceed £200 billion next year. Norman Lamont, Treasury chief secretary, had a nominal planning target before him for 1991-2 of £192.3 billion. Even before he

called in a single official or minister to start the haggling, he had effectively given away more than £3 billion.

That automatic overrun was made up of £4 billion extra to cover the impact of the higher than expected inflation rate on index-linked social security benefits (£2.5 billion), which the government is committed to pay from next April; and other demand-led programmes.

The political cost of trying to defuse public anger over the community charge accounted for another £2.7 billion. That was conceded to Mr Patten in July. Other commitments agreed since the £192.3 billion figure was set last autumn, including health pay review awards, the war widows' pension concession and the first tranche of extra spending on the Jubilee Tube line extension, added £2 billion.

Before a single plea was made to him by a spending minister,

the headline figure in front of the chief secretary was about £200.5 billion. At hand was the contingency reserve that the Treasury always writes into the planning total. For 1991-2 that figure is £6 billion. How much of that Mr Lamont decides to use will determine how far above, or perhaps just below, the £200 billion figure he goes. In last year's white paper, he retained a contingency reserve of £3 billion for the coming year.

The settlement by John MacGregor, the education secretary, of his budget late on Wednesday left the star chamber, which would have been headed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, without any work to do for the fourth year in succession.

The prime minister's unprecedented intervention with a strongly worded injunction to her ministers just before the Tory conference seems to have concentrated minds. Her warning

that they could expect little or nothing by going over Mr Lamont's head did the trick.

In trying to claw back some lost ground, the Treasury targeted defence and training as two areas for cuts. Mr King's apparent success, helped by President Saddam Hussein, in restricting the so-called peace dividend to a figure well below the Treasury's objective of £2 billion clearly puts him among the winners.

Mr Clarke has Robin Cook, his Labour shadow, to thank for putting him in the winner's enclosure. As Mr Cook's leak from a health department negotiating paper showed last week, the health secretary appears to have won more than £2 billion of his bid for £2.7 billion extra, the third year in succession that he has broken the £2 billion barrier.

His victory was crowned when Margaret Thatcher then appointed him to the star chamber where he would have sat in judgment on his colleagues.

Mr Patten's windfall was guaranteed last spring when Tory party jitters over the poll tax reached a critical level. It was no surprise when Mr Patten told the Commons in July that he had secured the biggest ever cash increase in local government spending; and no surprise either when he settled his housing, green and inner city budget with Mr Lamont quite speedily.

The autumn statement will disclose which other ministers deserve the plaudits.

No one has fought harder, and in the end more publicly, than Mr MacGregor. As many as seven face-to-face encounters with Mr Lamont have ended with a far from clear-cut outcome. Speculation that Mr MacGregor has won most of what he was seeking are not borne out by a close reading of the history of his negotiation.

For some time the education department was happy to let the

world believe that Mr MacGregor was pursuing an 18.3 per cent increase in his £6.8 billion budget planned for next year. That comes out at a £1.3 billion increase. But last weekend expectations were again lowered to nearer £1 billion.

This week, as Mr MacGregor's struggle with Mr Lamont came to a head there were further downward revisions. He appears to have secured between £500 million and £700 million extra, a rise of 7 per cent to 10 per cent. It may not be far from the figure he wanted.

As for the remainder, Tony Newton, the social security secretary and guardian of a planned £56.2 billion purse, Whitehall's biggest, will probably have some sweeteners to announce but looks likely yet again to be forced to swallow a freeze in child benefit.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, inherited a weak hand from Sir Norman Fowler.

his predecessor. The Treasury targeted the training budget for more cuts, arguing that employers should bear a greater share of the vocational burden. His settlement will be a test of how much clout one of the cabinet's rising stars has been able to wield. As for Mr Howard, the test for all ministers will be a comparison between their planned budgets for next year and the final outcomes announced in the autumn statement.

Treasury ministers deny that the fact that the star chamber is again redundant shows that their dire warnings about this year's round are all so much hot air. They believe that the very threat of its operation has proved a vital discipline in helping to balance the books.

"It may not have done any work, but we would hate to see it go," a Treasury insider said yesterday.

Thatcher and Kinnock in clash over vouchers

By JOHN WINDER

A BITTER Commons row over education vouchers yesterday led to Neil Kinnock calling the prime minister a crank while she countered with a charge that he was a crypto-communist.

The storm blew up from an unsuccessful attempt by the leader of the Opposition to persuade Margaret Thatcher to clarify her position on vouchers for schooling, and ended with him commenting that it was a long time since the Commons had heard quite such a prime ministerial tantrum.

Mr Kinnock opened with a brief question arising from Mrs Thatcher's speech at Bournemouth when she welcomed the introduction of

vouchers for training and hoped that it would not be the last voucher scheme, going on at once to speak of the role of independent schools. "Will the prime minister make it clear to everyone today that she is completely against vouchers for schooling?"

Mrs Thatcher replied that vouchers for training were a "very good thing" that increased choice.

"In education we are attempting to increase choice, with city technology colleges, grant-maintained schools and also with open rolls. Of course, local authorities are at central choice. They want centralised controls."

Mr Kinnock accused her of trying to evade the question and said that it was obvious that she was in favour of vouchers for schooling.

"She is a crank. Is it not obvious to her that every single examination ever undertaken into vouchers, including the one done by her friend, Lord Joseph [a former education minister], has concluded that vouchers are an expensive, bureaucratic and divisive system?"

Mrs Thatcher: "Nonsense. Nonsense. They are one method and only one method of what we are already operating: the money follows the pupil. That is a form of giving extra choice - giving the voucher to the parent for the pupil. Of course Mr Kinnock hates it. He wants total central control of education through socialist local authorities which hold money back from locally managed schools."

"Of course he hates choice. Of course he hates higher standards. Of course he hates opportunity. He is socialist, or crypto-communist."

Mr Kinnock: "It is a long time since we had quite such a tantrum from the prime minister at question time. Everybody knows that the education system is more centralised than it has ever been."

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, asked Mrs Thatcher why she disagreed with the view of the education secretary, John MacGregor, that a voucher system would be an unnecessary distraction.

Mrs Thatcher reported that Mr MacGregor, who was sitting next to her, totally disagreed with Mr Ashdown's interpretation. The city colleges and grant-maintained schools were an open regime, a form of allowing choice to the parent, and virtually a voucher system.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow leader of the House, complained later to the Speaker about the use of the phrase "crypto-communist". He asked if in future it would be in order for Labour MPs to refer to the prime minister as a crypto-fascist.

The Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, said that he hoped all MPs would treat each other with respect.

Knackers face EC threat

The knackers' trade, unique to the United Kingdom and Ireland, will come to an end in 1995 if an EC directive is accepted in its present form, MPs were told at questions.

David Clegg, junior agriculture minister, criticised the directive as unsatisfactory and said the government would try to ensure the continuation of the trade.

Parliament next week

The main Commons business next week will be:

Monday: Consideration of Lords amendments to the Employment Bill and the Landlord and Tenant (Licensed Premises) Bill.

Tuesday: Debate on the exchange-rate mechanism.

Wednesday: Debate on motions to amend parliamentary procedures.

Thursday: Broadcasting Bill, Lords amendments.

Friday: Courts and Legal Services Bill and the Broadcasting Bill, Lords amendments.

The main business in the Lords will be:

Monday: Broadcasting Bill, third reading.

Tuesday: Environmental Protection Bill, third reading.

Wednesday: Courts and Legal Services Bill, Commons amendments.

The foreign secretary will make a statement to MPs next Wednesday about his Middle East trip.

Parliament will prorogue during the week beginning October 29 and the new session will be opened on November 7.

Parliament today

Congress (9.30): Debate on German unification.



Michael Portillo, junior environment minister (left), with Barry Curnow, president of the personnel management institute, at the launch in London yesterday of a joint institute-government scheme to promote training and employment in the inner cities

SAFETY

Pesticide report criticised

A GOVERNMENT minister yesterday criticised the report by the British Medical Association on the safety of pesticides and said that some of its authors were not medically qualified (Peter Mulligan writes).

David Maclean, the junior agriculture minister, told MPs that the committee members, whose report had expressed doubts on assurances about pesticide safety, were not all academic experts.

He said that some were from Friends of the Earth, the environmental pressure group, and another was "one of Mr Ron Todd's men".

During question time exchanges, Mr Maclean asked why some of the "few scientists" involved had dissociated themselves from parts of the report or resigned from the committee.

He also expressed surprise that the BMA had called for more information and less secrecy.

Had no one told them the last vestiges of secrecy surrounding pesticides had been swept away and that UK statutory controls were some of the toughest in the world?

He said: "If there is any question mark over any pesticide, then it is automatically brought forward instantly for review. We are prioritising the review of all pesticides so that those in the top category will be reviewed, very speedily indeed."

David Clark, shadow agriculture minister, said that public anxiety about pesticides had been heightened by the report and Mr Maclean's complacency had not helped.

Mr Maclean told MPs that ministers would continue to fight against the export of live horses for consumption on the continent.

HOUSE OF LORDS

Handicap question divides peers in debate on late abortions

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE House of Lords was sharply divided last night over whether to allow late abortions when a baby is found to be severely handicapped.

During an heated debate on the ethical issues of abortion the peers approved the Commons amendment, cutting the time limit for abortions from 28 weeks to 24 weeks. But they disputed the grounds for allowing terminations up to the time of birth.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Houghton, called on peers to support the amendment to prevent late abortions where a baby is found to be severely handicapped.

Only 24 abortions were performed last year after 24 weeks of pregnancy. In 23 cases there had been the risk of serious foetal handicap and none of them had been after 27 weeks. No decision to carry out a late abortion was ever taken lightly.

Deliberately to destroy a viable albeit handicapped human being in order to avoid distress to the mother deserves such life in an unacceptable way. There should be a moral distinction between abortion to protect the life of the mother and abortion on the ground of potential severe handicap of the baby.

Opening the debate on the Human Fertilisation and Em-

bryology Bill, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said the Commons amendment cut the time limit for abortion from 28 to 24 weeks. The Commons decision reflects the bill introduced by Lord Houghton of Sowerby which, in turn, was based on the Lords select committee.

In abortions after 24 weeks of the nature of the clinical condition or handicap would be required.

Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, wanted to make such information public while protecting confidentiality.

Only 24 abortions were performed last year after 24 weeks of pregnancy. In 23 cases there had been the risk of serious foetal handicap and none of them had been after 27 weeks. No decision to carry out a late abortion was ever taken lightly.

I say to Lord Houghton that our concern is to try to prevent unborn children being torn limb from limb which has sometimes happened in late abortions when the infant who is old enough to feel pain has been dismembered in utero.

She believed that after 24 weeks when a baby is capable of sustaining independent life it deserved protection.

Supporting her, Lord McColl of Dulwich, director of surgery at Guy's hospital, said that irresponsible mavericks would be able to kill a child up to the time of birth. Despite assurances to the contrary, the Abortion Act, 1967, led to abortion on demand

mother against her will to carry an unborn child to full term merely because the diagnosis was made too late to enable a termination to be carried out within a fixed timetable.

Lord Brightman, who chaired the Lords year-long enquiry into the abortion laws, said the Commons amendment closely followed the committee's recommendations. "There is no logic or humanity in requiring a

mother against her will to carry an unborn child to full term merely because the diagnosis was made too late to enable a termination to be carried out within a fixed timetable.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby said anti-abortionists objecting to the Commons amendment wanted a "weasel formula" put into the Bill to allow prosecutions of doctors performing terminations where a baby is capable of being born alive.

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mother against her will to carry an unborn child to full term merely because the diagnosis was made too late to enable a termination to be carried out within a fixed timetable.

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Hargood: wanted amendment to be supported

LOCAL COUNCILS

Blunkett aims at the bureaucrats

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR promised yesterday that it would make a determined assault on town hall bureaucracy as part of its efforts to win public support for higher spending on local services.

The pledge was made by David Blunkett, the Opposition's local government spokesman, as he amplified his party's proposals to make local government more consumer friendly.

Mr Blunkett said it would be unacceptable for councils to reduce the delivery of services "charge-payers while maintaining heavy management and administrative structures".

The shadow minister said it was necessary to rebuild confidence in public

provision. Labour would not offer a monolith in which council labour forces were the sole providers of services.

Private firms would be allowed to tender for services such as refuse collection, but cost would not be the only criterion in awarding contracts. The quality commission planned by Labour would have a central role in ensuring that consumer satisfaction was also taken into account.

"For those who believe that efficiency and effectiveness are more than merely cheapness, competition is seen as one, but only one, of a number of strands in ensuring quality and consumer satisfaction. This is why the Labour party has not rejected tendering out of hand but

sees it as a small part of a much wider programme for improvement and real prosperity.

"While competitive tendering (avoiding compulsion wherever possible) has a part to play, it is only a part. Disseminating good practice, supporting innovation and initiatives, rewarding service as well as penalising incompetence, are all part of our vision of the future," Mr Blunkett told a meeting at the Royal Institute of Public Administration in London.

Councils would have to publish their own quality targets. If a local authority repeatedly failed to meet them, the quality commission would be able to force it to place contracts elsewhere.

In: Ernesto Jaconelli, Kodak, London NW1.

Tel: 0181 981 8000.

Fax: 0181 981 8001.

Kiev's victorious students call off their hunger strike

From NICK WORRALL IN KIEV

REJOICING at what appeared to be their absolute political victory over the Ukrainian government, students in Kiev decided in a mass vote yesterday to call a temporary halt to their two-week-old hunger strike.

The decision showed the students' distrust of President Kravchuk and his conservative Communist parliamentary majority which had reneged on its July undertakings to give the republic greater autonomy and make its armed forces independent of Moscow. After a meeting at the strikers' huge tented camp

in central Kiev they resolved that they "do not have full trust in the Ukrainian parliament and therefore only suspend the hunger strike".

A crowd of thousands jammed Kiev's widest street, the Khreshchatik, cheering and applauding the students' political victory, the first such defeat of a government in the 73-year history of the Soviet Union. Many waved blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags and one of the placards said of the 200 hunger strikers: "You are our consciousness, the best sons and daughters of our nation." On Wednesday two

hunger-strikers who had refused water were rushed to hospital and placed in intensive care. Most were taking regular sips of water or herbal tea to avoid dehydration. The hunger-strikers wore white headbands and were being cared for by thousands of volunteers.

City life for the past few days has been disrupted by countless street marches, first by students, then by increasing numbers of office and factory workers who decided to give their support. By midnight on Wednesday, a small hunger-strike camp set up outside the parliament building on Saturday had been dismantled. Eight of the strikers there were people's deputies who addressed the Ukrainian parliament — still wearing their headbands — to press the students' demands.

Unexpectedly on Wednesday morning, President Kravchuk conceded the students' primary demand by announcing the resignation of his prime minister, Vitali Masol, regarded by the students as the principal obstacle to reform in Ukraine. Later that night, amid demands from some ultra-conservatives for a state of emergency and tough military action to clear the city of demonstrators, the 354 deputies in parliament were asked by the president to vote on a compromise package.

The deputies agreed by 314 votes to 40 that a referendum of confidence in the government should be held next year which would also decide on a framework for new, multi-party elections; that no Ukrainians should do compulsory military service outside the republic; that a commission should be set up to examine the question of nationalising property owned by the Communist Party; that President Gorbachev's proposed new union treaty should be rejected until the Ukraine has decided on and adopted a new, more independent constitution.

There is bound to be a clash with Moscow over the question of military service. A Ukrainian parliamentary delegation in Moscow to discuss this tricky matter this week was reported to have been told by the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, that it would be "impermissible" for republics like the Ukraine to dictate terms of military service. The marshal also opposed any concept of an individual republican army within the Soviet Union.

Faced with open defiance of their authority, the Soviet security forces have in certain places been inching towards compromise with local nationalists. Senior Armenian politicians were invited recently to the local army headquarters to watch exercises and hold apparently constructive talks about fulfilling the nationalist demand that youths do military service in their home republic.

A similar demand has been endorsed by the Ukrainian parliament, and a member of that republic's government said this week that, after stonewalling at first, Moscow defence chiefs now seemed willing to co-operate with its implementation.

The ministry said the arms haul had been most successful in the Slav republics and Kazakhstan, and it singled out the weaponry recovered in the Ukraine: 6,600 firearms including 2,300 military rifles, and 375,000 rounds of ammunition. It was not clear whether those seizures had anything to do with the Ukrainian nationalist movement which, since the veiled insurgency of the immediate post-war years, has been scrupulously non-violent.

Easily the most difficult operation was that of Armenia, whose unofficial armies, thought at their height to have grouped well over 100,000 fighters against neighbouring Azerbaijan, were the main target. About 56 people, including five members of the security forces, were killed as a

General ousted for plotting

From PETER GREEN
IN PRAGUE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S communist-appointed defence minister, dismissed on Wednesday by President Havel, was removed from office for his role in preparing the army to put down last November's "velvet revolution", according to a presidential commission report released here yesterday.

The report said the army was preparing to send troops and tanks into the streets to defend the communist system, and the sacked defence minister, General Miroslav Vacek, then the army chief of staff, was a key supporter of the use of force. It was unclear whether the army was to act to support the dwindling power of the communist party hierarchy, or whether it was acting on behalf of hardline party officials. The general acted on orders from the defence minister to co-ordinate meetings with the interior ministry and organise "Operation Wave", intended to take control of radio and television stations at the height of the revolution.

"Operation Wave" was initiated by Rudolf Hegenbart, the hardline head of the party central committee's "department 13" and the suspected boss of the country's secret police. The army pushed hard for a military solution, the report said. It promised Politburo hardliners that it "would attempt to influence the central committee in the direction of firm political decisions to protect and to preserve the leading role of the communist party and socialism".

Special operational groups were established, officers and men were divided according to their political reliability and 14,500 men and 155 tanks were made available for putting down the street protests. From 4pm on November 24, the report said, these army units "were ready to fulfil their planned tasks".

President Havel dismissed General Vacek immediately after he read the commission's report.



Chernobyl appeal: Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Grodno, the Exarch of Belorussia, issuing a passionate appeal in Vienna yesterday for aid to fight the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

TV advertisers vie for children's minds

From CHARLES BRENNER
IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN children woke up yesterday to the chilling prospect of life without mutant turtles, or at least the television version of their heroes.

Because the cartoons amount to programme-length commercials for the plastic turtles and their paraphernalia, the television shows are likely to fall under new restrictions on advertisements permitted on children's television. The law, passed by Congress and reluctantly approved by President Bush on Wednesday, responds to the alarm of parents and educators at the damage being done to the young American psyche by deteriorating television values and an unprecedented commercial assault.

In the view of many, children are being used as a vulnerable captive audience in an ever more ferocious struggle for a market worth billions of dollars. The battle for the brand affections of little hearts and minds

has gone too far, even for some in the commercial world. *Advertising Age*, the trade weekly, said recently: "What used to be a somewhat even battle between the exaggerations and lure of advertising and the prudence of authority figures at home has become dangerously one-sided." It called on advertisers to "soften their hedonistic appeals" to children.

The new law limits commercials on children's programmes to 10% minutes an hour on weekends and 12 minutes on weekdays. It also requires stations to broadcast at least some educational fare as a condition for the renewal of their licences. Mr Bush came close to imposing a veto and withheld his blessing because he believes that the law infringes the right of free speech, guaranteed under the first amendment to the constitution.

Since all limits to commercials were removed by the Reagan administration on the same constitutional

grounds, children's television has multiplied seven days a week on the array of broadcast and cable channels.

It is dominated by crude and often violent cartoons which are often vehicles for merchandise. Even those are punctuated by advertisements for up to a quarter of the time. Adult programmes rarely show more than eight minutes an hour of advertisements. The new law also requires the federal regulators to restrict "programme-length commercials".

This frenetically paced "kidvid" is being blamed for everything from the decrease in attention span and reading ability reported by schools to the surge in street crime. The University of Pennsylvania reported in January that children were being exposed to a "mean and dangerous world". Violent acts had risen from 18 an hour in 1980 to 26 in 1989. "We are doing severe damage to our children," said Senator Paul Simon, one of the sponsors of a

draft bill to limit violence on television.

According to a recent spate of studies, many children are being turned into couch potatoes. A study by Yale psychologists this year contradicted the view that children at least absorbed information about the world from television. They found that heavy-viewing children were less well informed than those who went out to play with their friends. Others are arguing that kids and exposure to the unprecedently earthiness of adult shows are depriving children of their innocence.

Over the past couple of years firms have also begun campaigns in schools. In one of the most controversial, the Whittle group provides free television sets and a closed-circuit programme to schools if they show commercials in the class. Brands such as McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken are also "sponsoring" classroom activities.



Western workout: Jane Fonda (wearing glasses) showing the way in a keep-fit session outside the Kremlin. The actress is in Moscow to promote aerobics

Unity revives fortunes of nazi industrial giant

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

ONE OF the liveliest shares now quoted on the Frankfurt stock exchange is that of an industrial company which is not only in liquidation, but has not produced anything since the second world war.

Speculators, including at least two British companies, are buying into the firm so fast that the share value has doubled in recent months to around £10.

Listed as "IG Farben in Liquidation", it is heir to the assets of what was once the biggest chemical conglomerate in the world and which, under the Nazi regime, manufactured the Zyklon-B gas used in extermination camps.

The rush to buy into the company is because it now has a chance of reclaiming property in what was East Germany with a value estimated at billions of pounds. At its headquarters in Frankfurt, the company liquidators have drawn up claims for around 60

square miles of land, chemical plant and machinery. The necessary paperwork was lodged with the authorities by October 13 which, under the terms of the unification treaty, was the cut-off date for claims in property in East Germany.

During the war IG Farben employed around 330,000 people in 50 different concerns around the Third Reich. They provided many of the materials necessary to run the Nazi war machine, including oil, explosives and synthetic rubber, produced at Auschwitz by forced-labour gangs.

After the war the 11 company directors were tried for war crimes and imprisoned.

In the Soviet zone, or areas like Auschwitz in what is now Poland, the company's property was nationalised and run by the state.

The Western allies split the conglomerate into the constituent parts which had been first pulled together in the 1920s to

create IG Farben. The individual companies — BASF, Bayer, Hoechst and Agfa among them — prospered thanks to West Germany's free-market economy.

In 1952 it was realised that the original company had so many outstanding claims against it that it was necessary to set up a special operation.

It paid out around 25 million in reparations, looked after company pensioners, and did what it could to reclaim confiscated assets in the east.

Ernst-Joachim Barrels, one of the two liquidators, is sure it will be possible to recover at least something, although the unification treaty excludes property confiscated by the Soviet authorities between 1945 and 1949.

The liquidators intend to fight on the ground that these expropriations were illegal and therefore invalid.

The legal battle is likely to prove a test case for many smaller claims.

Europe talks on trade at impasse

From MICHAEL BUNYON
IN BRUSSELS

NEGOTIATIONS between the European Community and the European Free Trade Association to form a 19-nation free trade area have reached an impasse. Virtually no progress was made after two days of talks here, either on how Efta could share in EC decision-making or on the long list of exceptions to EC rules that Efta is demanding.

There is now almost no hope for a treaty setting up the European Economic Area to be completed by the end of the year. Fears exist that talks may break down, prompting several Efta members such as Sweden and Norway, to apply immediately for full community membership.

Franz Blankart, the Swiss economic secretary of state, who is leading the Efta negotiations, said yesterday that both sides had reaffirmed their will to reach agreement. But nothing further had come of the talks.

Efta is still unwilling to shorten its list of proposed exemptions from community rules on freedom of movement of people, goods, labour and services until it knows how the seven countries, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, will shape the rules that would bind both groups. Brussels has failed to present a written proposal, and Mr Blankart said the ideas outlined so far by EC officials would be almost impossible for Efta to accept.

He said both sides had now been polarised, but this was expected in such complex negotiations. It was only when an impasse had been reached that it could be overcome. "It is absolutely normal and foreseeable," he said.

Efta has been told that their experts can join in preparatory discussions on new regulations, and that their officials can also help draft them. But it will have no right to vote on directives that EC ministers will consider, even though they will be binding in all 19 countries. Efta cannot accept *facts accomplis*, removing the sovereign right of the seven to vote on laws affecting them.

Brussels, however, refuses to agree to permanent exceptions to the principles of free movement of goods and people. Countries such as Switzerland and Norway want to prevent outsiders being allowed to purchase property.

Iceland wants to prevent a labour influx overwhelming its tiny population. All seven countries want to keep their higher standards of health and safety, which the EC says must be waived if EC products are to be allowed free access to their markets.

Since talks began in the summer, progress has been glacial. Brussels has been bogged down in other issues, and EC foreign ministers have had little time to give the negotiations much attention.

Leading article, page 15

Romania date for reform of economy

Bucharest — Romania is to devalue its currency, slash state subsidies and free prices in a radical reform of the country's economy (Tim Judah writes). In a keynote speech to the combined houses of parliament Petre Roman, the prime minister, said yesterday the reforms would be introduced on November 1.

"We have to enact the reforms, not just affirm their necessity," he told deputies. He also announced that domestic energy prices, rents and certain foodstuffs would be protected from price rises and that wages would be indexed to inflation.

The need to implement the reforms was "urgent", he said, asking parliament to grant the government special powers over fiscal and customs matters for the next six months.

Mr Roman said that he expected unemployment to rise dramatically over the next year. While not putting a figure on the expected rate of unemployment, he said that as many as one million people might be "involuntarily employed" in a year. He expected 50 per cent of the economy to be in private hands within three years.

TV allowed on Mururoa

Paopete — France has allowed an Australian television crew on to its Mururoa atoll nuclear test site in the South Pacific as part of a new policy to end secrecy about atomic testing.

French and Polynesian television cameras have been allowed on the island but the officials said it was the first time a TV crew from an English-speaking country had visited the site. (Reuters)

Second Turk minister quits

Ankara — The Turkish defence minister, Sefa Giray resigned yesterday, the second cabinet minister to quit in six days. No reason was given.

The foreign minister Ali Bozok resigned on October 12 in an apparent rift over his virtual exclusion by President Ozal from Turkey's policy over the Gulf. (Reuters)

Told to go

Thunder Bay, Ontario — Babineau, a former model and Playboy Club waitress turned convicted killer who became a folk hero known as "Bambi" in the United States after she escaped from prison has been charged with working illegally in Canada and overstaying visiting privileges. (Reuters)

Vatican cuts

Rome — Cardinals who gave up first class flights, and secretaries who forsook pay rises has helped the Vatican contain its 1989 operating deficit at \$34.7 million, \$11.2 million more than 1988 but \$23.3 million less than had been forecast. (Reuters)

"Please don't help me."

Jamie Lavan, 10, is attempting to walk 20 yards unaided, in front of his doctors at Hammersmith Hospital. For a child with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, it's a marathon.

Duchenne is a fatal muscle wasting disease that progressively weakens young boys. Few live beyond their early 20s.

Though Jamie doggedly refuses assistance, he does, of course, need all the help he can get.

Researchers, funded by us, are racing to find the cure. And they're making dramatic progress.

For Jamie, it's a race against time.

Please, spare a moment on the coupon below.

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Kaifu plan to send troops abroad runs into trouble

From Joe Joseph in TOKYO

THREE days of pleading in parliament have not only failed to win Toshiki Kaifu the support of opposition MPs and some doubters in his own party for his plan to send Japanese soldiers abroad again after 45 years. His awkward handling of the bill may have swelled the daunting odds against him.

Japan's prime minister has provoked such a storm that some of his own praetorian guards have unsheathed their swords. Opposition MPs accuse him of trying to send wolves abroad in sheep's clothing by including troops in his proposed UN Peace Cooperation Corps, a task force designed to help in UN-sanctioned peacekeeping missions. The Tokyo press is hostile. Japan's Asian neighbours are anxious.

Yesterday a pacifist group outside the foreign ministry chanted that "the solution by military force is not the solution for Japan". A squad of 250 riot police moved in to Kyoto University, to evict students who had taken over the president's office to protest against the new law. At Tokyo University, alumni in their seventies stood on soap boxes to tell students of the horrors of war.

The embarrassment of losing a prime minister just before princes and presidents arrive for next month's enthronement of Emperor Akihito may be doing a lot to keep Kaifu in office, a Western diplomat said yesterday.

Some of the power brokers in Mr Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party are just as blunt. Michio Wanabu, head of one of the factions and a man hungry for Mr Kaifu's job, said the cabinet might have to resign if he could not get the bill through parliament. A senior foreign ministry official says Ichiro Ozawa, the secretary-general and one of the architects of the new law, "has washed his hands of Kaifu."

Backbench MPs are wary of backing a bill that is so unpopular with their constituents, who have great mem-

ories of war and find Iraq too distant a place to worry about.

Only a few months ago Mr Kaifu was being rated as Japan's most popular postwar leader. He is learning why Japan's favourite political saw runs "one inch ahead is darkness".

Mr Kaifu has been insisting that allowing members of Japan's Self-Defence Forces to take part in non-combat roles in UN peacekeeping missions would not offend Japan's war-renouncing constitution, since the bill prohibits them from using force.

He has failed to satisfy Takako Doi, who leads the opposition Socialists and can block the bill's passage through the opposition-controlled upper house. Aware that public opinion is with her, Miss Doi accused the government of deceit and of violating Japan's constitution.

Government officials say that even in the unlikely event of the bill getting through parliament, it will be months before the task force can be assembled. They say it is unlikely to number more than 1,000 men and women.

This is likely to surprise Washington, which must be assuming that Japan is pressing ahead with the plan to prove that it is pulling its weight in the Middle East, along with its allies.

The Japanese press disclosed that President Bush had asked Mr Kaifu to send forces to the Gulf when the two leaders met in New York on September 29.

A foreign ministry official said: "Our basic principle is that we don't send personnel to combat zones. So if fighting starts, they will be withdrawn very quickly behind the front line."

The Asahi newspaper wrote of "mounting suspicion that the government and the Liberal Democratic Party, rather than responding to an immediately urgent issue, are poised to take advantage of the opportunity as a breakthrough for the dispatching abroad of SDF troops in the future."

Under headlines proclaiming "The Rebirth Of Japanese Militarism", South Korean newspapers are also prickly. The Seoul Shinmin said that "Japan is attempting to change the fundamentals of its diplomatic policies for the last 45 years since the war and divorce itself from its exclusively defensive stance".

Raul Manglapus, foreign secretary of the Philippines, spoke of "a general feeling of concern in the whole region because of recollections of what took place during world war two".

Kaifu knives out within his party over Gulf force

Ethiopia able to seize advantage

From Andrew Lyett in ADDIS ABABA

THE Gulf confrontation has given Ethiopia an unexpected opportunity to win Western support. The foreign ministry can go days, even weeks, without issuing policy statements, but on this issue it is positively loquacious.

As a member of the 15-nation UN Security Council, it has consistently condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and voted to apply sanctions. It also supports the sending of the multinational task force to Saudi Arabia and does not mind who knows it.

When he is being coy, the foreign minister, Tesfaye Dinka, dresses up his government's position as a particularly Ethiopian response to the situation. Fifty-five years ago, Ethiopia was the victim of Italian Fascist aggression and "of the failure of the community of nations to live up to collectively assumed obligations", he says.

The minister's senior advisers say that Iraq has consistently supported the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, which is fighting a secessionist war in northern Ethiopia, and vice versa. "It is another example of Iraq's quest for regional domination," argues one. Mr Tesfaye sees how this allegation can be worked to Ethiopia's advantage.

If he can portray the Front as an Iraqi stooge, he can score points in the propaganda battle to win Western — and particularly American — support for Ethiopia's efforts to secure peace in its rebellious northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre. He understands how strongly Western governments link peace in Eritrea with their continuing support for Ethiopia's economy.

Educated at the local Wengen School, a British-type public school before the 1974 revolution, and Syracuse University in America, he is



Coming to blows: a struggle between a Peruvian policeman and a housewife in Lima yesterday during a poor women's march outside Congress seeking food aid

"Please don't help me."



"I'm going to do it by myself. I'm going to fight it to the bone. Kick it in the teeth."

Jamie Lavan, 10, has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal disease that picks on young boys. Starting with the legs, it wastes muscle tissue, weakening as it goes, finally affecting the lungs and the heart.

The end usually comes in the late teens or early twenties.

"Other people, they get older on the outside. I'm being worn away from the inside. I wish I could stop the clock. Especially at birthdays."

For Viv and Tony Lavan, Jamie's diagnosis was a hammer blow: he is their hard-won only child. But they're fighting the disease like tigers. Through sheer determination, he can still walk twenty yards unaided, to the delight of the team at Hammersmith Hospital. Sports, games, climbing trees

out, but he still goes to cubs. And school:

"This boy called me Skoda legs. I called him Concorde nose, 'cos he has. Then my friend hit him. He doesn't call me now."

If only his determination alone could cheat the disease. But it can't. Jamie needs all the help he can get.

At the moment he can't really bear to look at calipers, but soon he'll be in them. Spinal braces, rods and jackets, and various wheelchairs will follow.

He will have to be turned during the night, manhandled to the bathroom. He won't be able to clean his teeth, comb his hair.

"It's like life going into reverse, watching Jamie grow helpless as he grows up. But he keeps us going, really. You can see him fighting inside. We can't let him down."

The disease follows a dismal course. But read on, for the fact is things have never looked

Peking leaders revive call for faster reforms

From REUTER IN PEKING

CHINA'S Communist Party leader, Jiang Zemin, signalled yesterday what diplomats saw as a significant shift in Peking's power struggle by reviving a once discredited slogan calling for faster reforms.

Diplomats said it appeared that Mr Jiang, aged 64, was trying to establish himself as the true successor to elder statesman Deng Xiaoping, aged 86, and not just a stop-gap leader. Mr Deng, although in retirement, is believed to hold the reins of power.

"China will stick to the policies of reform and opening up laid down by Comrade Deng Xiaoping. We intend to speed up the process of reform and opening but we will keep to the socialist road," Mr Jiang was quoted as saying by the *People's Daily*.

In a separate report, President Yang praised Mr Deng as the architect of the last decade of reforms and said they would be "speeded up a little".

Diplomats said the nuances were important. It was the first reference to quickening reforms by a Chinese leader for a long time and recalled the slogan used by former party leader, Zhao Ziyang, at the 13th party congress in 1987. As hardliners gained the upper hand the slogan was

dropped in 1988 and replaced by "deepening the reforms" and "economic readjustment and rectification".

Mr Jiang, a Soviet-trained technocrat who replaced Mr Zhao last year, was widely seen as Mr Deng's protege but lacking his own power base and vulnerable to attacks by conservatives after his mentor's eventual death.

The twinning of Mr Jiang's remarks with Mr Yang's seemed to signify that they were working together under Mr Deng's banner, a Western diplomat said.

Their comments made to visiting Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore prime minister, were in sharp contrast to an economic policy speech issued by Li Peng, the prime minister, last week which advocated caution and argued against speed. "We cannot develop blindly... We do not want to seek overly rapid growth," he said.

No mention was made of reforms in the report on Mr Li's meeting with his guest, which was published with the other two reports on the front page of *People's Daily*. "Jiang's remarks are important, significant... But he does not mean political reform," said an East European diplomat.

Summit offer to Seoul by Kim

From SIMON WARNER
IN SEOUL

PRESIDENT Kim Il Sung of North Korea said yesterday that he was ready for a summit with Roh Tae Woo, his South Korean counterpart, as soon as talks between their prime ministers make progress in easing Cold War tensions.

President Kim told Kang Young Ho, the visiting South Korean prime minister, that he was pleased talks had "proceeded smoothly". Although the two days of prime ministerial talks in Pyongyang did not yield any significant agreement, it was decided that a third meeting would be convened in Seoul for December 11-14.

In Seoul there are expectations that an agreement on a non-aggression pact will be reached during the December meeting or at one after a summit between President Kim and President Roh sometime next year. Experts believe that the North Korean president appeared to be trying to take personal credit for moving the peace process forward. In fact, it is being dictated by the rapid progress in relations between Seoul and Peking and the South's restoration of ties with Moscow, which has left North Korea isolated.

more promising: for the 20,000 adults and children with Duchenne and associated conditions, and for those yet unborn.

Three years ago, scientists isolated the protein, dystrophin, the absence of which causes Duchenne and related disorders. (In the words of a researcher, it was like a light being turned on in a darkened room.)

Since then the pace has quickened. This year, tests are under way to inject cells carrying the protein into affected muscles, to try to make them grow again.

And - most exciting of all - ways are being sought to implant genes which would themselves deliver the protein to those muscles.

Taken together, these two lines of approach hold out a simple promise - in cell therapy, for a treatment; and in gene therapy, for the cure.

"1990 has been the most exciting year in the Muscular Dystrophy Group's 30 year history. For our many parents it's been frustrating excitement, because, of course, they want an effective treatment right now. But the treatment and the cure WILL come. We must just keep up the effort."

PAUL WALKER, DIRECTOR, MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY GROUP

Jamie is challenging us to a race against time. For there is much work to be done to make the cure a reality. It's the kind of steady, dedicated, painstaking work that needs, above all, money.

"I remember a year or two back they were testing Jamie's muscles with needles. As he lay there, his tears were filling the well of his collar bone. He said, don't cry Mummy, I can take it, I can take it, if it's going to find me a cure."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Because we're not a large charity, we concentrate our publicity effort around Muscular Dystrophy Week, from October 13-20.

For that week, muscular dystrophy is a national issue, with lots of fund raising events taking place nationwide. (And they're fun, too.)

Jamie would love you, your family and friends, to give your support.

He will not give up the struggle. Neither can we.

M.D.
MUSCULAR
DYSTROPHY
RESEARCH-COUNSELLING-CARE

British fudging on foreign policy helps mischief-makers

THE cancellation of Douglas Hurd's talks with Palestinians in Israel was caused not so much by mischievous Israeli misquotes as by Britain's indecisiveness on the Palestinian issue. It showed how easily those who sit on the fence can be pushed off it.

If there is a lesson, it is the lack of wisdom in trying to be on both sides of a controversial issue. Five or six other areas of British foreign policy suffer from lack of clarity.

Britain's policies on the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar share the ambiguity displayed on the Palestinian issue. Policy on Tibet is marked by timidity, on Europe by internal divisions, on South Georgia by weakness, and on Cyprus by a refusal to meet treaty obligations. In the case of Hong Kong, it mirrors the self-doubt of a mouse negotiating with a cat.

This is not to suggest that all British foreign policy is fudged. No one doubts its clarity on nuclear weapons, sanctions

The Hurd fiasco would not have occurred if Britain's stand on the Palestinian issue had been clearer. Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, highlights ambiguities in other areas

against Pretoria, Vietnamese boat people, democracy in East Europe, President Gorbachev's virtues, or the evils of Colonel Gaddafi.

Taken as a whole, British policy reflects the struggle between Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe during his six years as foreign secretary. John Major did not have time to learn the ropes before being moved to No. 11.

The appointment of Mr Hurd a year ago next week changed the balance. His greater personal popularity, compared with Mrs Thatcher, has restored Foreign Office supremacy over foreign policy. He has begun to untangle the knots, restoring relations with Iran, clarifying policy on Cam-

bodia, and helping Mr Major and Sir Geoffrey to convince Mrs Thatcher on entering the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. The hostages are next, probably followed by Syria. But much remains to be done.

□ The Palestinian issue: Mr Hurd said that the British position was well known. In fact, it is little known, because it was written timidly to avoid alienation.

Nothing could be weaker than the statement that Britain "favours self-determination for the Palestinian people. Whether or not that leads to a Palestinian state is a matter for them and for negotiation". It was understandable if the Palestinians thought

that meant a lack of support for statehood. The Israelis made it sound like outright opposition, by twisting Mr Hurd's words. They could not have done that if the policy had been clear.

Successive British governments have said that Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is illegal, and have backed Palestinian self-determination. It is not logically possible to square that with silence on statehood. The policy should say that Britain supports a Palestinian state within borders giving security to Israel, Palestine and neighbouring countries. How the borders should be determined is a different matter.

The policy suffers from the same dilemma as UN resolution 242, of which Britain was the main author. Although it was the foundation stone of subsequent peace efforts, it was flawed by a lack of plain-speaking which angered Palestinians. □ The Falklands: Britain has

begun to follow policies which will lead Argentinians to think that the sovereignty of the Falklands will one day be negotiable. This is not a criticism of the renewal of diplomatic relations in March, which was a wise step.

The fault lies in other decisions which suggest a lack of moral confidence in Britain's sovereignty. It was a mistake to separate the constitution of the Falklands from that of South Georgia, implying that Britain might give up the former while retaining the latter.

Sir Geoffrey was unwise to refuse the islanders' requests that he declare a 200-mile limit, apart from the area between the islands and the mainland, which would be equally divided. His hand was forced in 1986, when Argentina tried to encroach on Falklands waters. But he declared only a 150-mile limit, which has proved inadequate for fishing conservation, on which the islands' econ-

cemy depends. The islanders are again appealing for a 200-mile zone. Mr Hurd should agree, both to help the islanders and to remove doubts on sovereignty.

□ Gibraltar: The Brussels Agreement of 1984, under which Britain and Spain agreed to meet annually, was a sound move. Sir Geoffrey followed it with a second clear signal of Britain's intentions by announcing the run-down and eventual withdrawal of the British garrison. These were accompanied by assurances that Gibraltar would not be handed back to Spain against the will of the people. Britain appears to be facing both ways, and Mr Hurd has not clarified the middle.

Given that Spain is now a democracy and belongs to the EC and Nato, there is no justification to continue owning the only colony in Western Europe. It is time to persuade the Gibraltarians to accept Spanish sovereignty. □ Europe: Britain faces near-

Big Five forced to rely on rhetoric

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

JUST last month, British diplomats at the United Nations were insisting that the Security Council should not pass "bleat" resolutions against Iraq.

All five permanent members — Britain, China, France, the United States and the Soviet Union — agreed that resolutions loaded with rhetoric rather than concrete measures would only distract UN action.

The violence at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and the protracted security council debate that followed have changed that. The Israeli occupation of Arab lands seized in 1967 has resurfaced on the security council agenda with a vengeance, and although few are insisting on formal linkage with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, diplomats now speak of "moral linkage".

The Western powers fear that, if they push tough measures against Iraq, they will have to support further action against Israel or risk fragmenting the anti-Iraq coalition. Another problem is how to revive debate on Iraq when the majority of the security council is still focused on the UN effort to investigate the Temple Mount violence.

The answer of the five permanent members of the security council — acting at the urging of Britain and the United States — is probably the kind of "bleat" resolution they had resisted.

The "big five" have drafted a text combining US ideas about resupplying the remaining embassies in Kuwait with a watered-down version of Mrs Thatcher's call for Iraq to pay what she called reparations. The draft is described as "less toothy" than other votes against Iraq. It reasserts Iraq's obligations to foreign nationals and embassies in Kuwait, particularly its duty to allow food to reach stranded diplomats there, and at Cuba's insistence asks the UN secretary-general to continue to try to achieve a peaceful solution.

There is no mention of war crimes; despite President Bush's speech earlier this week warning of a repeat of the Nuremberg trials after the second world war. Elaborate plans, contained in a British working paper, to pay compensation out of Iraq's frozen foreign assets have been shelved. The draft resolution simply reaffirms Iraq's liability to pay compensation and invites governments to collect information of claims by their citizens.

Diplomats say the resolution was softened so it could be passed speedily — before next Wednesday's deadline for a UN report on the Temple Mount violence. They say options for further UN measures against Iraq are now running out after a series of unprecedented resolutions since the invasion.

"There is not an awful lot extra one can do that is not going to the military option," one said. "But if it is necessary politically, I am sure we can think of something." The five powers have not yet begun work on a resolution giving UN endorsement for military action to reclaim Kuwait.

Hurd repairs Israel links at risk of breach with Arabs

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

THE four-day visit to Israel by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has put Anglo-Israeli relations on a new footing at the expense of Britain's standing with Palestinians.

Even the new warmth in Anglo-Israeli ties was marred by suggestions that right-wing Israeli MPs deliberately embarrassed Mr Hurd by leaking reports that he had expressed opposition to a Palestinian state. Angry Palestinian leaders boycotted a meeting with Mr Hurd in protest on Wednesday.

Mr Hurd, who yesterday held final talks with Moshe Arens, the defence minister, before leaving for Athens, said he had been misrepresented. He reiterated Britain's support for Palestinian self-determination, saying that

Jerusalem rethink on mission

From RICHARD OWEN
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday hinted at a compromise over its refusal to allow a United Nations mission to investigate the Temple Mount killings in Jerusalem nearly two weeks ago.

Under the proposal Israel would make available to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, the results of its inquiry under the chairmanship of General Zvi Zamir, a former head of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service. Officials said the findings, due next week, could be supplemented by evidence from UN officials in Israel and the occupied territories.

Douglas Hurd this week urged Israel to accept the UN mission even if it could not accept the UN Security Council resolution on the Temple Mount shooting. He urged Israel not to divert attention from Iraqi aggression in Kuwait. But yesterday Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said after talks with Mr Hurd that there was no room for the UN mission in Israel. He said the UN resolution had "condemned Israel before the mission even set foot here".

The Zamir commission yesterday recalled border police commanders for further questioning. It has interviewed the imprisoned Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini; Romi Milo, the minister of police, and officers of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, who said their warnings of the coming riot were ignored by border police commanders.

Mr Arens said the Temple Mount killings would not affect the alliance against Iraq as "the coalition built against Saddam Hussein by the US President is sufficiently deep".

De Klerk ends state of emergency

From GAVIN BELL IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT de Klerk has formally ended the four-year-old state of emergency in South Africa, paving the way for full-scale negotiations on a new constitution which the government hopes will begin early next year.

The security measures were withdrawn yesterday in Natal, the scene of years of murderous strife between rival black organisations, the only area in which they remained in force. They were lifted elsewhere last June.

Despite continuing sporadic violence, conditions in Natal had stabilised to the point where the ordinary laws of the land were sufficient to maintain order, Mr de Klerk said yesterday. He trusted it would not become necessary to introduce special security measures again, but the government would not hesitate to do so. "Violence and intimidation bring no solutions," he said. "There is only one route to peace and reconciliation in our country."

and that is through peaceful negotiation."

Although the draconian powers of arrest and indefinite detention were withdrawn, a strong security presence will remain in the province where more than 3,000 people have been killed in factional fighting in the past five years. Adriaan Vlok, the minister of law and order, said he believed more police were required to ensure that there were no new flare-ups.

Special security measures remain in force in almost 30 black townships in the Transvaal, where more than 500 people were killed in August.

The removal of the nationwide emergency imposed in June 1986 was one of the main conditions laid down by the ANC for beginning negotiations on a new constitution, and by the international community for lifting sanctions against Pretoria.

"I think most of the imposi-

tions have now been removed, and there is nothing as far as we are concerned standing in the way of negotiations proceeding," Mr de Klerk said. He could give no specific timetable for the negotiations, but reaffirmed his goal of submitting a draft constitution to a referendum before a general election is due in 1994. Only if negotiations could not be concluded before then would there be another general election under the present parliamentary system, from which blacks are excluded.

Mr de Klerk denounced plans by the far-right Conservative Party to stage a campaign of civil disobedience in protest against the government's reforms. "I think there is a general sense of outrage at the irresponsible attitude of the Conservative Party with regard to disruption of (National Party) meetings, and unlawful actions such as withholding taxes," he said. He added that he would deal with this matter "very fully" a few

hours later, in an address to the Transvaal congress of his party.

Fighting between Zulu followers of the Natal-based Inkatha Freedom Party and Xhosa-speaking township dwellers who broadly support the ANC has abated after massive security operations, but sporadic clashes are continuing. Meanwhile, three white men have been arrested in connection with a gun attack on a bus in Natal last week in which six blacks were killed and 27 injured. Two of the suspects are members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, a paramilitary group opposed to the reform process. However, police believe it was a non-political act of revenge for an attack by members of a fanatical black religious sect in Durban in which eight whites were stabbed.

Mr Vlok said yesterday that no

evidence had emerged of any mysterious "third force" which was fomenting violence in black communities.

The army reported that the rebels fired homemade explosives into Illovo airbase, damaging a helicopter and wounding a mechanic. The base was sealed off

Salvador rebels launch attacks after deadlock in peace talks

From TOM GIBB IN SAN SALVADOR

LEFT-WING rebels mortared the main military airbase and hit other targets around the capital on Wednesday night in the first heavy fighting in the city in months.

The thud of mortar shells, followed by several hours of rocketing and strafing by air force helicopters and planes, caused alarm as people thought the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front rebels were launching another offensive.

But the fighting died down and was not of the intensity of last November, when rebels occupied large areas of San Salvador for over a week, provoking the heaviest fighting of the 11-year-old civil war.

The army reported that the rebels fired homemade explosives into Illovo airbase, damaging a helicopter and wounding a mechanic. The base was sealed off

more guerrilla attacks on military targets. But an offensive would probably sabotage rebel efforts to force a change in Washington's policy towards El Salvador.

Angered by lack of progress in investigating last November's murders of six Jesuit priests, congressmen are due to vote any day on proposals to withhold half of the \$85 million (£47.6 million) military aid package. But the aid would be restored if the rebels launched an offensive which threatens the government of President Cristóbal. The US has given more than \$4 billion in aid to El Salvador since the start of the war.

In the short term, prospects for a peaceful settlement are slim as both sides appear to believe they have the military advantage. No one is willing to give in while the war, which has cost more than 70,000 lives, remains a stalemate.



Egypt 'backs talks to bypass PLO'

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

IN THE wake of the support given to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Israeli officials believe that both Egypt and the Western powers are "increasingly sympathetic" to the long-standing contention of Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's right-wing prime minister, that Israel should conduct peace talks not with the PLO, but with "non-PLO" Palestinian figures in the occupied territories.

"This is the first political fruit of the PLO's disastrous mistake in backing Baghdad," one source said.

Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said yesterday after talks with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that Palestinian support

for President Hizballah's troops tightened security in the Christian enclave where fighting and street fighting, revealed by pro-Syrian sources, have left more than 700 dead in five days (ester reports from Beirut). They said that on Saturday General Aoun's soldiers trashed the Syrians by waving a white flag of surrender at Dahr al-Ward.

Syrian soldiers were shot when they came into the open and later, in anger, killed captured Christians. General Aoun has remained at the French embassy, where he sought sanctuary before his surrender last Saturday. France has promised him asylum, but President Hizballah's government is preventing him from leaving.

Poll shows Britons favour use of force

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITAIN has emerged as the European nation most in favour of using force to free Kuwait, free the hostages or protect the West's oil supplies, according to a Gallup poll of the five largest countries.

The trend was announced yesterday as Iraq offered to sell its oil companies on both sides of the Gulf conflict for a knockdown \$21 (£10.71) a barrel and as it claimed that enemy planes violated its airspace two days ago, penetrating 2.5 miles inside its Saudi border.

Eighty-six per cent of Britons questioned for the poll, commissioned by the Association for Free Kuwait, said they would back force to free Kuwait if sanctions fail, compared with 75 per cent in France, 66 per cent in Spain, 63 per cent in Germany and 59 per cent in Italy.

The other countries came closer to the British view when the 500 interviewees in each country were asked if they would support force to free the hostages. Britain remained unchanged at 86 per cent, Italy at 72 per cent and Germany at 70 per cent. In Spain it dropped slightly to 63 per cent.

The figures in the poll, carried out between October 1 and October 10, were generally lower on whether force should be used to protect oil supplies. The British remained at 78 per cent.

The Iraqi offer to sell its oil for

orders of President Saddam Hussein and was designed to sow division among the coalition lined up against him. It followed an earlier offer by Iraq to give its oil to third world nations.

An announcement over Baghdad radio by Isam Abd al-Rahim al-Shabani, the oil minister, pledged not to touch the money until the Gulf confrontation is resolved. He said that payment would be taken through a special fund because of the trade embargo.

"In order that our decision may not be misinterpreted, we agree that the money paid for the oil should not be transferred to Iraq, but should be deposited, in line with a special arrangement, and Iraq would not have access to it in the normal way until the Gulf crisis is resolved," he said.

The price of \$21 a barrel was the last set by Opec before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

One oil industry expert said that the offer could prove tempting to poorer nations which saw an opportunity to pay prices below yesterday's market level of \$34 a barrel.

Yesterday the Iraqi News Agency, quoting a foreign ministry spokesman, said "an enemy formation" of two planes had crossed the Iraqi-Saudi border on Tuesday flying at 21,000 ft south-east of Arar-an-Nakhil on the Iraqi-Saudi border. The planes were not identified.

Meanwhile, three white men have been arrested in connection with a gun attack on a bus in Natal last week in which six blacks were killed and 27 injured. Two of the suspects are members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, a paramilitary group opposed to the reform process. However, police believe it was a non-political act of revenge for an attack by members of a fanatical black religious sect in Durban in which eight whites were stabbed.

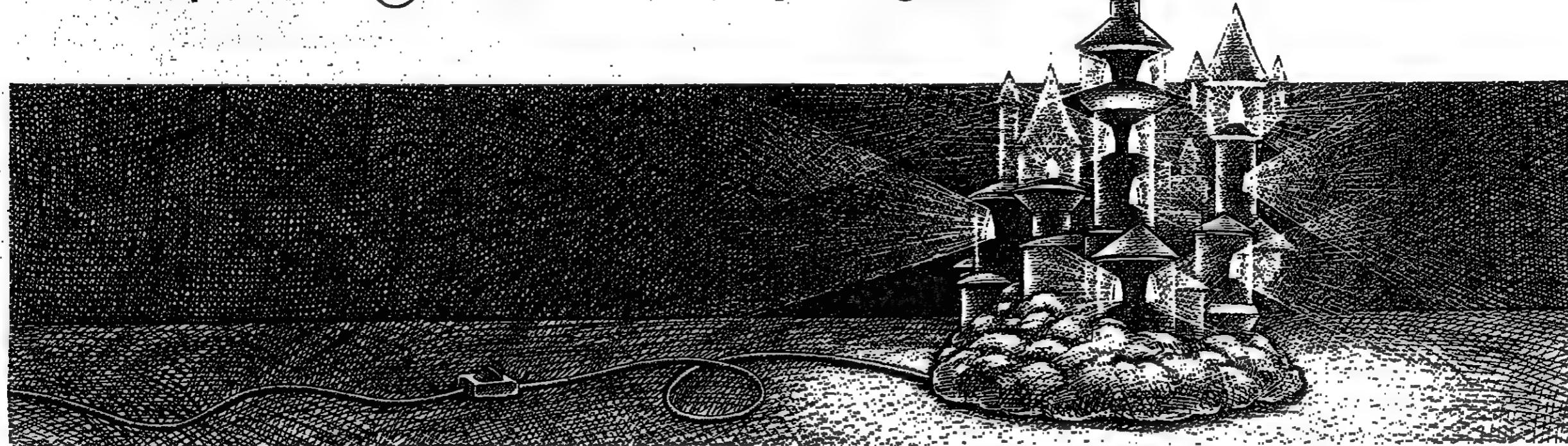
Mr Vlok said yesterday that no

evidence had emerged of any mysterious "third force" which was fomenting violence in black communities.

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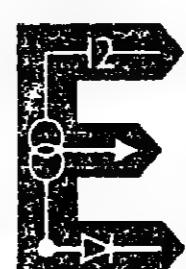
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Their name is froth

Philip Howard

Fame is the spurt of scum on top of society. We are obsessed with celebrity. Widely (well pretty widely) popular television shows consist solely of a small circus of personalities flattering and being flattered by a presenter, who is jolly nearly as famous as they are.

The audience screams with delight at being privileged to attend such a meeting of celebrities. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some appear on *The South Bank Show*. There is an artificial elite of personalities who are famous merely for being famous. These are the ones who hallow Wogan with their snug banalities, and appear relentlessly on the covers of colour mags. There is even a new magazine devoted entirely to flattering colour pictures and obsequious text about persons with no apparent claim to fame — except that they are already well famous.

Star-worship used to be thought of as the American vice. On his visits to America, Dickens was amazed by the crowds who shamelessly followed him down the street just to stare, or pressed up just to touch him. Perhaps it was the insecurity of emigrants and colonials wanting to make contact with the fame and sophistication they had left behind in Europe. Well, we have caught the vice over here now, encouraged by the deplorable custom of walkabouts by politicians and other self-important celebrities. To think that one gains anything by touching a well known personality is primitive sympathetic magic that would doctors would approve of.

During a visit to Australia, the Queen Mother found herself surrounded by a group of celeb-hungry Australians. Still smiling graciously as the circle pressed closer round her, she murmured: "Please don't touch the exhibits." A celebrity is a person who works hard to become well known, and then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognised.

Quite a lot of it is our fault in the media. Many journalists are celeb-hunters themselves, who get their kicks by rubbing shoulders with the famous. So we have devised for ourselves the Humpty Dumpty rule that the only people worth doing a "profile" of, or putting a big mug-shot of on the front of our colour mags, are celebrities who are already instantly recognisable. It is a dangerous myth that everybody has one book in them. But it is true that a good writer can find an interesting story in anybody; a good snapper can take an interesting picture of anybody. I simply do not want to read yet another profile of or childhood of or "A Lavatory in the Life of" some empty celeb who has been done a thousand times before. It would be much more interesting to read the story of or see the picture of an unknown. But then, I am notoriously deficient of what we worship as news sense in the inky trade.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I chose a good week to come down to Provence. I could hardly have chosen a better. All I could have chosen better was my wardrobe. I should have brought a trenchcoat.

Not for the weather, although this is unquestionably trench-coat weather. As a matter of fact, it is olskin weather. Gumboots are *de rigueur*. Sou'westers are *not de trop*. It has been raining solid for two days. The word is not solidly: there is nothing adverbial about this stuff. It is a continuous sheet. It looks like clingfilm. From time to time, men get up from the marble tables of the Café du Midi, where I am scribbling this, and they walk into the sheet and vanish. The others stare after them.

I feel your brow crinkle. How on earth could this be a good week to come down to Provence? Especially for an Englishman seeking a shaft of warm sunlight, a bit of a paddle, an *al fresco* oyster or two?

Because of John Cairncross, that's how. John Cairncross has made it a singularly good week to be an Englishman in Provence. To show you just how good, let me tell you what I reply when the boules-players ask me what I am doing here in the Café du Midi. I reply: "I have come in from the cold." This makes them laugh. It is not easy to make a boules-finalist laugh when he has been staring at the rain for two days. Not that it is an uproarious laugh, it is more of a knowing laugh, a conspiratorial laugh, even. But it is a laugh.

It goes with last Tuesday's headline in *Nice-Matin*. The headline ran: "*Un Espion Qui Vivait Au Chaud*". Odd, to see one's domestic cliché appropriated. Like, too, the subhead: "*Le cinquième homme retrouvé*." It had never occurred to me that the French knew about the *cinquième homme*; or even, come to that, the other *quatre*.

It is remarkable how this latest judder of the old farago has generated local relief. St Antonin is a fair few kilometres from here across the Var, but animated discussion of the affair has driven even the boules final from the preoccupation of this village's cafe society. I have

Our society is not unique in its celeb-mania. We have just caught it worse. At a triumph in ancient Rome, at least they had a slave riding in the chariot with the triumphant general, murmuring "Remember, you're only a poor mortal sod, like everybody else", and other apotropaic (supposed to turn away bad luck) sentiments. And behind him marched his soldiers, singing obscene and insulting apotropaic verses. (I bet the centurions saw to it that they weren't too apotropaic.) What is so awful about our celeb-worship is that its practitioners and audience take it seriously. Perhaps we should get the modern equivalent of a slave (a cleaner?) to wander across the Michael Aspel set, brushing and muttering "Never heard of any of them, and they're rubbish."

Even our word for fame is ambivalent in its roots. Our society seems to think that fame is an unmitigated good. Andy Warhol said: "In future, everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes." He got a certain amount of fame and the money that goes with it. And a fat lot of good it did to that deluded and talentless maniac. All that fame meant originally was news. It is related to the Greek *pheme*, a voice, and the Oscar *fauumat*, "he said". The early Latin uses of *fama* are all pejorative, undesirable: a malicious report, rumour, notoriety. Only quite late, when the republic had passed into the imperial system run by hype and publicists, did fame acquire the positive meaning of glory and renown, something to be desired and envied above all things.

The Greeks, a clever and more democratically inclined race than the Italians, were sounder on fame than the Romans. In his funeral oration on the Athenians killed in their war against Sparta in 430 BC, Pericles said: "The greatest glory is to be least talked about by men, whether they are praising you or crucifying you." I agree he was referring to women at the time, but the Greeks had a way of cutting their male celebrities down to size also. You could argue a case that the Athenians lost their war, and the Greeks lost their independence, because their democracy could not tolerate anybody, even if he had some talent, being famous for more than 15 minutes. There is a lot to be said for not being known to the readers of *Heads* or the viewers of *Wogan*.

When Auden was a young writer, some celeb-sniffing journo asked him what effect fame would have upon him, should he be so lucky. He thought a bit, and replied: "I believe that I would always wear my carpet slippers." And when he became famous, he always did wear his slippers, even when the rest of him was in evening dress (somewhat crumpled). Being allowed to wear slippers all the time is the only lasting benefit of the modern glory of celebrity.

There are always some issues about which it is socially impossible to hold a dissenting view. The medical giants of the 19th century, for example, knew that self-abuse led to insanity. After the repeal of the Corn Laws, being in favour of them was like being against gravity. As Arthur Koestler pointed out in *The Ghost in the Machine*, some dogmas — even in the hard sciences — must be believed if one is not to be considered mad.

Most current controversies, such as membership of the exchange-rate mechanism, the British Medical Association report on pesticides, and policies on global warming, require complex economic and scientific knowledge that only a handful of people possess. This means that most of our responses are based on gut feelings. The gut is a fine instrument for digestion, but as far as I know it has never actually surpassed cerebral activity.

When a certain kind of dogma is blown in the wind, there is not much one can do about it. Only a few days ago the chief of the Downing Street unit, Brian Griffiths, was saying he was firmly opposed to the ERM. By now he must be counting his ecus and keeping quiet. There may

be seven people in parliament who understand all that the ERM entails, but who will be able to pick them out from the other hundred blustering in next week's debate? My gut tells me that when businessmen push for entry into the ERM on the ground that it removes risk from their entrepreneurial activities, we should be cautious and suspicious, but that is only a gut reaction.

Reaction to the BMA's report this week on pesticides in food and drink, however, ought to be a little more cerebral. The BBC Six O'Clock News concluded its summary of the report with a commentator's sombre warning to the nation that "the onus of proof must be reversed" in order to put the consumer's interests before those of the agro-chemical industry. This reminds me of the Queen of Hearts' "Sentence first, verdict afterwards", and Alice's response, "Stuff and nonsense". Of course we should investigate any risk to health, but it is cavalier to ban approved pesticides without a shred of epidemiological evidence.

Water pollution has been a threat as long as human beings have existed. "And all the waters that were in the river," the Old Testament tells us, "were turned

to blood and the fish that was in the river died and the river stank." Scientists have pointed out that this Biblical occurrence was probably the sort of bloom of red algae not uncommon today. At the beginning of this century, deaths in cities from water-borne typhoid were running high. The water has been cleaned up, pesticides have improved our food production, human beings are bigger, healthier and live longer. But the disaster lobby flourishes.

In August, Channel 4 showed Hilary Lawson's documentary *The Greenhouse Conspiracy*, which methodically examined the evidence for global warming and concluded, most persuasively, that there was no evidence for the phenomenon. The ecological lobby mounted furious attacks on Mr Lawson, full of sound and fury, if not substance. Curiously, no political party took up the many points raised by the programme, which, after all, concerns a major world issue. "Once you get a dogma and it is running," says Mr Lawson, "the social consensus is so strong that people don't resort to facts any more. Those who supported global warming made wild accusations. We had used the wrong data. We were going to be sued. But none of the

accusations against the programme have been shown to be true."

Part of the human condition seems to be a need to exist with impending doom. This is often satisfied by a scientific theory of the moment. Some aspects of environmentalism have become quasi-political movements infused with almost metaphysical views about human sin. Large numbers of people disappointed by the collapse of socialism as a social theory have defected to the environmental camp, where they find spiritual solace in recycling bottles or legislating against fossil fuels. One cannot dismiss everything environmentalists say, just as one cannot dismiss everything socialists say, but most environmentalists campaign that one is on the side of truth. But anyone being sceptical about global warming and the ERM, to mention only two dogmas of our time (one might also mention opposition to nuclear energy, and belief that the community charge is inequitable), runs the risk of being regarded as a lunatic. Still, I take refuge in Samuel Johnson's words: "There are ten thousand stout fellows in the city of London," he said, "ready to fight to the death against Papery, though they know not whether it be a man or a horse."

prestige hinge on success. The model that wins is presented to the world as the definitive account of what will happen. "The global warming theory," says Mr Lawson, "came out of the climatology departments. In the programme, I indicated there were possible vested interests here, and why in the past they supported other disaster scenarios such as the impending ice age."

Time and fashion will take care of many of these models. In a few years we shall discover whether the ERM plays economic havoc or brings us new prosperity. One must not make the mistake of saying that every notion that gains popularity in an era is wrong; opposing the *Zeitgeist* is not proof that one is on the side of truth. But anyone being sceptical about global warming and the ERM, to mention only two dogmas of our time (one might also mention opposition to nuclear energy, and belief that the community charge is inequitable), runs the risk of being regarded as a lunatic. Still, I take refuge in Samuel Johnson's words: "There are ten thousand stout fellows in the city of London," he said, "ready to fight to the death against Papery, though they know not whether it be a man or a horse."

Barbara Amiel says that people are far too ready to accept conventional wisdom

The emperor's new stratagem

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Macmillan: a vindication that came too late



The Cossacks were at the heart of Tolstoy's campaign, but the evidence has been found wanting.

Admirably energetic as Count Tolstoy was in bringing the fate of the repatriated prisoners into the public eye, his work seems to have been driven by a passion for scapegoats and conspiracies. A murder requires a murderer, and a conspiracy a conspirator. Somewhere I felt there existed a veiled figure who was aware of my fruitless attempt to uncover his identity." Count Tolstoy wrote in 1906, explaining how he had come to point the finger at Macmillan. These seem less the sentiments of a historian than an admission that the writer's judgment was warped by his obsession with blaming Allied soldiers, diplomats and politicians for the crimes of Stalin and Tito.

The truth, according to Cowgill, is that the "veiled figure" was woefully unprepared for Count Tolstoy's accusation, first made in 1978, that he had deliberately handed over non-Soviet Cossacks. Apart from his own diaries, which he did not conceal, Macmillan had no documentary evidence with which to counter the allegations, which became progressively more sensational as the years went by.

Mr Horne recalls many occasions on which he discussed the events of May 1945 with the blind old man. Unable to publish until

Daniel Johnson on the minister, the massacres and a flawed campaign



after his subject's death, Horne testifies to the perplexity during the early Eighties of Macmillan's supporters, none of whom was in a position to refute Count Tolstoy. Indeed, only after Cowgill's ma-

terial became available could Horne write his account of Macmillan's role in Austria in the revised edition of his first volume.

Macmillan was, in Horne's words, "devastated and distressed". His attempt to obtain documents from Sir Robert Armstrong, then head of the civil service, failed: it took devoted researchers like Mr Cowgill to track down the evidence. Advised that a libel suit would have been intolerably taxing — as the action brought by the much younger Lord Aldington against Count Tolstoy was to prove — his submission to cross-examination on television was a brave, if futile, attempt to turn the tables.

Macmillan's ancient feud with the press, which had always credited him with infinite deviousness, encouraged many journalists, including (before he embarked on his enquiry) Christopher Booker, to believe Count Tolstoy to be a criminal. Ludovic Kennedy relied entirely on Count Tolstoy's tendentious interpretation. Closely quizzed, Macmillan was made to appear evasive: "We had our orders... under the Yalta agreement."

The interrogation failed in its object. As Cowgill shows, Macmillan was telling the truth: that he had merely advised officers on the ground that Allied policy under the Yalta agreement was to hand back the Cossacks, and he had, like everyone else, been unaware that large numbers of them were Russian émigrés.

Cowgill explains how the rigid hierarchy of the British army made improbable any unauthorized initiative by Macmillan and 5th Corps. With hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, the distinction between Soviet and non-Soviet Cossacks was appreciated late, though not too late for the British to refuse to hand over hundreds, perhaps thousands, of émigrés to the Red Army.

Tolstoy was unpopular with all those obliged to implement it. But the unknown number of British prisoners, then in Soviet hands must have been paramount, while the need to avoid open conflict with Tito determined the policy of the Western Allies towards those Yugoslavs who surrendered to them. Field Marshal Alexander, the supreme commander, spoke of the return of Yugoslavia to Tito as a "military necessity", adding that he had not been able to deal with them as he would have liked.

Once a conspiracy is dismissed, one's view of the reparations depends on whether one believes in the fundamental decency of those who bore this dreadful responsibility. I met Macmillan only once, when he was a guest of Lord Deacon at Peterhouse in 1981. He ran rings around academics a quarter of his age. What impressed me was his integrity. In 1980 he said, in another context: "if you don't believe in God, all you have to believe in is decency... decency is very good. Better decent than indecent. But I don't think it's enough."

That is not the testimony of a criminal, a liar or a coward. Harold Macmillan knew that he had behaved as decently as anybody in 1945. It was indeed "not enough", but he deserved better than to die, like Haile's father, "no reckoning made". Thanks to the Cowgill committee, that reckoning has vindicated him once and for all.

A fresh draught of Porter

The American conductor John McGinn has won an epic legal contest for the right to record the score of a Cole Porter ballet that has not been heard for almost 70 years. He plans to record the music composed by Porter in 1933 for the Swedish Ballet and said to be of the highest quality, in time for the centenary of the composer's birth next year.

The commission was for a ballet "on an American subject". Porter came up with *Within the Quota*, the tale of a Swedish immigrant who came to New York to live the American dream. But the company was disbanded after the piece was commissioned, and the score was presumed lost, allegedly causing Porter to remark: "My first attempt to be respectable must remain in limbo forever."

It does not happen. Provence gets precious few literary lions. Provence gets 20,000 Englishmen called, more or less, John Cairncross. It glares at them as they amble the streets, refusing to win literary prizes or fill bookshop windows.

But suppose they were not writers at all. Suppose this were merely a cover for something immeasurably more glamorous.

This week St Antonin has become the most famous village in Provence. That, surely, is why the patron of le Café du Midi bought me, unprecedently, a cognac. He thinks I might be *le sixième homme*.

If I wore a trenchcoat, he'd be convinced.

Off the rails

British Rail was delighted with the impression it was making on Roger Freeman, the junior transport minister, during a recent fact-finding tour of the proposed King's Cross redevelopment site. With the project likely to cost £5 billion, BR is naturally anxious to keep on the side of the government.

The tour ended with minister and officials standing outside the listed Great Northern Hotel, the preservation of which intrudes upon the redevelopment plans. One BR official, emboldened by the general success of the tour, told Freeman: "We want to demolish it but some ruddy, meddling woman at English Heritage is trying to prevent us."

The meddling woman is none other than Freeman's wife, Jennifer, an architectural historian and member of the London advisory board of the heritage group. Ever the gentleman, Freeman refrained from comment. "It



ged.

was I who blushed," he said later. "I did not have the heart to tell him,



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AVERTING STAGFLATION

John Major must have stood up at the Mansion House last night a worried man. Yesterday's statistics appeared to show a nation gripped, as so often before, by stagflation. They had unemployment rising for the sixth month in succession, and productivity failing to rise at all. A week ago, the retail price index showed inflation higher than it was when Mrs Thatcher entered office. The earnings figures indicate that underlying inflation is likely to rise further before it falls. The pound has dropped to where it was two weeks ago, before the Treasury mis-timed Britain's entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The annual Mansion House speech is considered the Treasury's most important annual disquisition on the government's economic philosophy. The Chancellor chose yesterday to concentrate only on the technicalities of European monetary union and Callaghan-style exhortations about wages. This approach, now a leitmotif of all ministerial speeches, will make no more impression on workers, managers, investors or voters than it did when the Labour government used it as substitute for a supply-side economic policy in the 1970s.

The cabinet's economic policy following ERM entry is now at risk from tunnel vision. The claim is that only one valid objective exists for macro-economic policymaking: the reduction of inflation by means of an iron adherence to just one currently fashionable strategy. This strategy has included, successively, fixed monetary targets, medium-term fiscal plans, interest rates and now an internationally determined exchange rate. Known by its critics as the "one club" approach to policy, it has never been more in the ascendant than today.

Governments are absolutely right to seek to control inflation. Rising prices are socially unjust. Countries which tolerate high inflation rates for long periods suffer acute economic, and ultimately political, distress. High inflation cannot somehow buy lower unemployment or faster economic growth in the long run. However, this does not mean that all other objectives should be ignored or overridden in the battle against inflation.

A cardinal principle of Thatcherism was that inflation was caused, not just by monetary

indiscipline, but by inflexibilities and restrictions on the supply side of the economy. These have been tackled — for instance by trade union reform — but only partially. Those other supply side bugbears, rented housing and labour skills, remain largely untouched by Thatcherism.

Now to plunge the economy into recession, to beat an inflation partly caused by supply side inadequacies would be absurd. There is no case for inducing a return to high unemployment and economic stagnation merely to get inflation down by a percentage point or two. In the long term, a continued anti-inflation policy should include further measures to deregulate labour markets, improve industrial infrastructure and achieve a better-trained workforce. Fighting inflation is first and foremost for micro-economics.

The other side of that coin is that macro-economic policy must be directed towards promoting prosperity as well as stable prices. Mr Major continues to suggest that he has only one macro-economic tool — currently the exchange rate — and that this tool is for fighting inflation alone. By thus implying that politicians cannot be responsible for any economic evil other than inflation, Mr Major may try to dodge blame for those other evils, but he also denounces government much of its purpose — and Thatcherism much of its crusade.

Unemployment is not just the fault of the trade unions; recession is not just due to overgenerous employers; industry is crippled by more than just incompetent managers; the boom and bust of the housing market is due to more than irresponsible borrowers and lenders. Government has a role in all these, and its policies towards them have economic consequences.

Mrs Thatcher's past promises and present demeunour lead the public to expect her to bring down inflation without precipitating a severe recession or high unemployment. She and her ministers cannot start blaming stagflation on employers and trade unions, those familiar demons of Downing Street speech-writers for decades past. The cabinet must use all the tools of monetary, fiscal, credit and exchange-rate policy which are at every government's disposal, a full and rounded armoury. Mr Major should have displayed it last night.

FOR WANT OF A NAIL

Political union is the main item on the agenda for the European Community foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg next Monday. They will have before them grandiose plans for common foreign and security policies, for more powers for the council of ministers, the Commission, the European Court of Justice and the European Parliament. They will be invited to bathe in candyfloss.

They are more likely to do something different, spending most of their time deciding whether they dare overrule their farm colleagues for the sake of saving a crucial attempt to increase world trade from collapse. The Gatt's four-year Uruguay Round of negotiations to liberalise trade and lay down new and binding rules for settling trade disputes is now seriously imperilled. Success would, among other things, open up trade in services, in which EC businessmen have a deep interest since services account for half the Community's gross national product. Time is running out: the deadline is December. Yet all this week, Gatt delegates from 105 countries have been twiddling their thumbs in Geneva, because the EC missed last Monday's deadline for presenting its position.

The reason is that the EC governments have not had the political guts to discipline their farm ministers. These ministers have so far refused to endorse the Commission's minimalist package for reducing farm price supports, protectionism and export subsidies. Given the risk of trade wars if these negotiations break down, such latitude for agriculture, which accounts for a mere 3 per cent of the EC's GNP, is not just myopic, but blind folly.

Today the farm ministers meet for the third time in less than a fortnight. The Commission's proposal for a 30 per cent cut in subsidies already falls far short of a commitment to eliminate the market distortions of the common agricultural policy. The Americans are demanding 75 per cent cuts in price supports and 90 per cent in export subsidies within ten years. Others go still further.

So desperate is the Commission for ministerial agreement that it is expected to sweeten the pill still further with promises of a system

of cash compensation. Britain, which rightly resists, will be offered the sop of a "fresh approach" to the CAP, at some unspecified future date. Even so, led by Germany's Ignaz Kleckle, the hardliners may still hold out. Germany's foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, whose awe of his farmers has been magnified by next month's general election, may insist on Monday that foreign ministers pass the buck to the EC summit in Rome on October 27. Gatt would have to wait.

The question posed by this farce is clear: how can the Twelve seriously dream of a common foreign policy when for months they have let the farm lobby sabotage the one patiently urgent foreign policy question on the global agenda? The Italian presidency, supported by France and Germany, argues that the Community's bickering over the Gulf demonstrates not the pitfalls of a common foreign policy, but the need for it. The EC once needed a common agricultural policy. It has one, the policy is worse than useless and is well on the way to collapse.

There is nothing abstract about the question. The inter-governmental conference on political union starts in December. An Italian discussion paper suggests that the Western European Union should be "merged" into the EC, creating the basis for a common defence policy. Single EC forces would be deployed in emergencies such as the Gulf (on recent showing, none would be dispatched). Each EC nation would agree to act only in ways "consistent with the foreign and security policies of the union". For Italy's prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, the logical consequence would be an EC permanent seat, with veto power, on the United Nations Security Council, replacing France and Britain.

How high a price in political paralysis should be paid for "political union"? The same paralysis that now afflicts agricultural union? Britain has yet to set out its thinking on political union. Neglect is not a policy. The government must articulate its rumoured scepticism, and should use the EC's indecision on Gatt and aversion to free trade to bring its European colleagues rudely to earth.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Noise annoys. It is one of the most pervasively irritating of pollutants. Noise seeps, or blasts, from everywhere, with wearing, energy-sapping effects. Between 1973 and 1988, formal complaints to local authorities rose by more than 800 per cent. Cars, railways, aeroplanes, motorways and factories have become quieter mechanically than they used to be. But because there are more of them, noise still increases.

The government's response, published yesterday, is to propose extending the scope of already available powers against noise pollution. To reject the criminal solution is right. In Britain, noise is not a criminal matter. Most public complaints are not about industrial noise, but domestic nuisances such as amplified music and barking dogs, which lend themselves to a civil solution. In countries as disparate as Switzerland and New Zealand, the police can take direct action, entering premises and confiscating noise-producing equipment. Here, the responsibility lies with local authorities' environmental health officers.

There it should remain: in Britain a knock on the door in the middle of the night should rarely come from a policeman. As the government's report on noise concludes, present legislation is robust enough. New penalties are not needed to deter. Failure to comply with 14-day noise abatement notices

can already lead to fines of up to £20,000, or even six months' imprisonment.

The problem lies elsewhere. To be of value, penalties must work quickly. This is almost impossible when dealing with house parties, or people playing large stereo equipment too loudly. The penalties must also be imposed. The report proposes ways to ensure as far as possible that nuisance laws are applied as widely as possible. Car alarms, for example, would have to cut out automatically after 30 seconds. Local authorities would be required to carry out their responsibilities, providing 24-hour cover by environmental officers, and not, as many do now, simply turning a deaf ear to complaints.

But governmental solutions, whether national or local, are not the only responses to noise pollution. Individuals bear responsibility too. Those who listen to personal stereos on trains, for instance, should buy sets with less leaky headphones. Car engines function worse, not better, for excessive revving. Parents can not only try to induce a respect for quiet in their children, they can stop shouting in restaurants themselves. For perfect silence, all must wait for the tomb. But in a world that is unavoidably noisy, there is a duty on us all to be quiet. That costs nothing.

Roads damage to prehistoric sites

From the President of the Prehistoric Society

Sir, Your report (October 16) that Cecil Parkinson has denounced English Heritage for publishing an entirely speculative assessment of the likely damage to archaeological sites from new road schemes raises anew the question of where responsibility lies for rescue archaeology.

English Heritage's estimate that over 800 known archaeological sites are likely to be disturbed, damaged or destroyed by the Department of Transport's motorway and trunk roads programme is based on a detailed analysis of county sites and monuments records and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments' national archaeological record as well as on case studies of particular road schemes.

Independent archaeological opinion, as represented by the Prehistoric Society (whose council discussed the question yesterday)

society believes that this seriously underestimates the potential impact of the roads programme on the nation's archaeological heritage. Indeed, where road routes have been assessed in advance of construction the density of sites revealed has often surprised the professional archaeologists themselves. But, regardless of the precise scale of the potential impact, our concern is that adequate provision should be made for archaeological assessment and exploratory excavation, before the exact routes of new roads are decided, thus minimising both site destruction and rescue costs.

The Department of Transport's present provision of £500,000 per annum for rescue archaeology arising from road development demonstrates a welcome willingness to accept, in principle, some responsibility for archaeological investigations, but it fails far short of the total needed just to assess, and where necessary excavate, the known sites likely to be affected by the roads programme (a sum which English Heritage estimates at over £70 million).

Developers in the private sector now commonly accept responsibility for a large proportion of the archaeological costs arising from their projects. Surely the Department of Transport should do the same and increase very substantially the proportion of the road-development budget that is provided for rescue archaeology?

If they do not, the price of road development will include the destruction of many hundreds of archaeological sites and the loss of the knowledge of our past that they can reveal.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRIS, President,
The Prehistoric Society,
University of London,
Institute of Archaeology,
31-34 Gordon Square, WC1.

Customer protection

From Mr James Woodward-Nutt

Sir, Recent liquidations of companies selling goods and services to the public have again raised the vexed question of the protection of customers' prepayments. The present situation is long overdue for reform; the consumer is regarded as an unsecured creditor, who in practice is unlikely to get any refund of his money after the preferential creditors have been paid out.

Our federation believes that such prepayments should not be used by traders to finance their operations, but should by law be lodged in a separate bank account, and held there in trust for the customer until the goods are delivered. Such an account should not be regarded as part of the assets of the company in the event of an insolvency, and customers' money could be returned.

Operation of prepayment accounts would be straightforward, and likely to be cheaper than bonding, as traders could gain interest on the account and might even be able to borrow against the security of orders received.

The Office of Fair Trading in their recent report on the carpet and furniture trades state that they have been calling without result for the industry to introduce a scheme for protection of prepayments since 1986. If traders will not take action, they say, legislation may be the only answer.

We believe that action is now overdue, and that consumers should no longer be subjected to the unjustified and unnecessary risk of losing their money in this way.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WOODWARD-NUTT
(Chairman),
National Federation of Consumer Groups,
12 Mosley Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Veterinary research

From Mr Roger R. Cook

Sir, The Science and Engineering Research Council (report, October 2) has criticised the Government for not spending enough on research. In animal medicine this threatens to drive the remaining activity overseas.

Under the doctrine of "full industry funding" this small industry (annual turnover £170 million) is expected to find £2 million per year to fund the licensing of products before they are put on the market. The money is partly raised through a tax on company turnover (not profit) and partly through fees on licence applications. The fee for a major application is £1,200; the equivalent

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Roads damage to prehistoric sites

From the Reverend John Wynburne

Sir, Proposals to abolish the "parson's freehold" (report, October 15) should proceed with caution for three reasons. First it is a domestic matter of church reform that should be given a low priority on our agenda at a time when we seek a spiritual renewal which is not mainly about structures but about engaging with the unbield of the world and making God real and findable in a nation that has largely forgotten him.

Secondly, to appoint clergy on a limited tenure and apply the same criteria for effectiveness and performance as those in secular jobs is to seriously misunderstand the vocation of ministry. The model of ministry we need to rediscover in our day is that of servanthood but it must be a free servanthood and not one that is in any way inhibited by contractual arrangements.

Thirdly, many people today have lost the skills or have never been given the example of how to sustain long-lasting relationships. It is this witness to a life-long commitment that is undermined by putting ministry on a contractual basis of limited tenure.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WYNBURN.

The Vicarage,

Camberley Parish Church,

286 London Road,

Camberley, Surrey.

October 16.

From the Reverend John W. Latham

Sir, The clergy freehold situation is an anomaly when compared to other professions. This is because no such comparison can be made: it is not, in theory, a paid profession but a relationship (a theory that is upheld by he or she

has paid a mere "stipend") of £1,000, however much this has to be incremented, for practical purposes.

There are, obviously, cases where the relationship is not all that it should be; the fault can be on either side, or on both. Yet there are also situations where the relationship is good but the results (in terms of growth and output) slight. This could be because the cleric, however holy, is apparently ineffective, and this, in turn, is because he is a pastor and not an evangelist or prophet.

To alter the freehold situation needs more consideration of the whole question of whether there is a threefold ministry of bishop, priest and deacon, or a fourfold ministry at each of those levels: that of pastor or prophet or teacher or evangelist, and of how long those various types of person need to be in a parish for their work to be truly effective. A pastor cannot easily "wipe the dust off his feet" as an evangelist can, let alone have it wiped off for him: love constrains him to persist with the relationship.

Yours sincerely,
J. W. LATHAM,

The Vicarage,

The Avenue,

Fleet, Northampton.

From Dr D. M. Conning

Sir, Ann Kent's article ("How many food nannies make a healthy nation?", October 11) begins by stating a major fallacy, namely that healthy eating means lean meat, free-range eggs and poultry and organic produce. Only those with more money than sense will adopt such criteria in pursuit of health.

Healthy eating means good nutrition. There is such a variety of food available today, at a price which is as low in relation to spending power as it has ever been, that no one need doubt their ability to achieve good nutrition, provided they know what they are doing.

The greatest impediment to good nutrition is the wielder of misleading and over-simplified messages foisted upon the public by those with political ambition or a journalistic career at stake, and the inability of the consumer to discriminate against false prophets. To claim that another layer of bureaucratic control will improve the consumer's choice of food is simply silly.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. CONNING
(Director-General),
The British Nutrition Foundation,
15 Belgrave Square, SW1.

October 12.

Philip Larkin's will

From Mr John Whitehead

Sir, "Happily, Motion and his fellow executors were able to prevent the fulfilment of another of Larkin's wishes, that all his unpublished material be destroyed" (Diary, October 10). Since when has the deliberate flouting of their testator's wishes by his executors been an occasion for happiness rather than for condemnation?

"They sought the advice of a QC, who ruled that the clause in Larkin's will was repugnant" (Motion and his fellow executors were able to prevent the fulfilment of another of Larkin's wishes, that all his unpublished material be destroyed) (Diary, October 10). Since when has the deliberate flouting of their testator's wishes by his executors been an occasion for happiness rather than for condemnation?

I have examined Larkin's will and find the clause to be clear and unambiguous. It is not the clause but the executors' decision to disregard Larkin's instructions which seems to me repugnant.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHITEHEAD,
The Coach House,
Munslow,
nr Craven Arms, Shropshire.

Enterprise at 80

From Mr Don Mackridge

Sir, Your third leader on October 13, "The age that withers not", seems to be directed towards me and I am not loth to respond at once.

Last September on my 80th birthday, at a public concert given in this city, Haydn, Mozart and other quartets were played on instruments I had made in my 79th and 80th years. Nothing very remarkable about that (remember Stradivari?) except that I had no previous experience in the craft or of any other craft, no tuition, no supervision, no help whatsoever. All from two books.

I like to think that I created a world record for achievement in old age. Could we hear of other Grandpa Moses exploits, if only to counterbalance the noises being made by the youthful enterprise lobby?

Life begins at 80.
Yours faithfully,
DON MACKRIDGE,
31 St Sidwell's Avenue,
Enfield, Middlesex.

J.P. C. 1990

A sound system for keeping quiet

There's a kind of hush all over Scotland, thanks to a way of dealing with noise that could see a stereo in the dock

While Chris Patten, the environment secretary, nurses an incipient headache over the latest recommendation on noise control, published yesterday, the Scots are sleeping peacefully in their beds, enjoying the quiet life and clocking up 60 per cent fewer noise complaints than the rest of the UK.

In Scotland the racket from a neighbour's wild party may be brought to a sudden, blissfully peaceful end when the police unplug the stereo and take it away for evidence. So, if you don't want your CD player or too-loud tube to become Exhibit A it is wise to put a sock in it "when required to do so by a uniformed constable".

Police powers to put a stop to noisy music are tucked away in a piece of uniquely Scottish legislation, the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, which tidied up a raft of regulations covering everything from selling second hand clothes to controlling sex shops. Section 54 of the act protects Scots in their own homes and in public places from unreasonably loud music and carries a fine of up to £50. The police are at pains to point out that they are anything but party poopers. "We always give people a chance to turn the music down," one officer says. "Often the host will ask us in for a wee drink, but they should realize that it's no joke and usually things calm down quite quickly. And, if all else fails and we have to charge them under Section 54, the record player or whatever is evidence, so we have to take it with us." Simple. The prospect of three months (the approximate time it takes a case to come to court in Scotland) without a stereo might prove more of a deterrent than the £50 fine.

But the one-off racket is only part of the din of modern life which Mr Patten's department is seeking to quell. He might do well to look to Edinburgh, where a hush is descending over the city thanks to the effort of the local authority's team of noise abatement experts.

John Stirling, the deputy director of environmental health in Edinburgh, has four officers solely dedicated to the pursuit and elimination of noise. They work on the principle that, at least in your own home, you are entitled to absolute silence. "We operate to what are known as the criteria of

inaudibility, while most English authorities use a standard which allows some level of noise," Mr Stirling says. "However, we have been doing some missionary work on this with English authorities, and some are seeing the light." Wider powers, tougher rules on sound insulation and working closely with the planning authority to prevent noise nuisance are some of the other reasons why Scotland is winning the noise war.

Regular night duties for Mr Stirling's officers take them into the living room of the deafened and despairing: a retired colonel who could follow video films playing in the hotel next door; a fish breeder whose tropical stock vibrated to the thump of the pub jukebox downstairs; a woman who could roll out a bingo card as the numbers were called in the neighbouring working men's club. However, noisy sound systems make up about a third of the workload, which last year totalled 548 noise complaints.

But does not Edinburgh's tourist trail along the Royal Mile leak music out of every tartan-draped doorway? What of the bagpipers in Princes Street and the cacophony of the Festival? These are considered part of the city's character, and allowed, "although we do set curfews", Mr Stirling says. Roads, building sites and factories are all strictly monitored. Mr Stirling believes in persuasion by case history. Take the shop burglar alarm which went off by mistake so many times that the neighbours tired of calling the police. When the alarm was set off by the fire sprinklers, the place was flooded.

But it is not just the big noises that lead to the noise team being called in. There was the vibrating sideboard, for example, victim of a washing machine on fast spin cycle; the dawn crowing of six French cockerels and the "noisy cistern" which was traced to a pensioner's faulty hearing aid.

In London, the environment department has its own problems. A call to its office this week elicited a request for a question to be repeated. The information officer could not hear, she said, over the noise of an electric drill.

JOAN SIMPSON

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Leading article, page 15



Home and away: Jenny Barker with William, youngest of her five sons, and (right) house mother Selina Deacon demonstrating the bed-making art at Port Regis.

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JOAN SIMPSON

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Leading article, page 15

Home from boarder country

Caroline Whitlock's last sight of Georgina, her eight-year-old daughter, before she departed for her first term at a Buckinghamshire prep school, was of a very red face looking out of the window while her elder sister was waving a box of tissues reassuringly". Despite their agreement that "she wouldn't cry when she left", Georgina, like many young boarders before her, arrived at her school in tears.

Will she return home this weekend a more self-assured and independent creature and, if she does, will her mother be pleased? As half-term looms, anxious parents throughout the country are viewing the return of their boarding-school children with a mixture of excitement and apprehension.

When Philippa Brooks's eight-year-old son, Tom, returned from his Berkshire boarding prep for his first exam (long weekend), he was as self-contained as his mother had been over a telephone call from the school's matron, two weeks into term, to say that Tom had fallen out of a tree ("My first reaction was to dash down there, but as he was reportedly fine and enjoying being the centre of attention, I very stoically stayed put"). Mrs Brooks says she expected boarding to make her son more independent, "but it's still another thing to face it. I sensed a

slight distance between us and a lack of openness on his part, although my husband thought I'd imagined this. Occasionally I get concerned about producing one more generation of stiff-upper-lipped schoolboys, but one hopes the good things will rub off, too."

Mrs Brooks says she is thrilled by her son's increased confidence — and tidiness. "I couldn't believe it when I went up to his room and found his clothes hung beautifully on a hanger. Even his father doesn't always do that." But she is slightly nonplussed by the rapidity of the transformation: "You do hear people say that new boarders change completely in three weeks, but I'd hoped it wouldn't happen that fast."

Some parents are more concerned about parting than boarding-school etiquette would deem reasonable. Tom Douglas, the 47-year-old house mother at Queenswood girls' school in Hertfordshire, recently comforted one tearful mother. "She kept telling her daughter: 'You don't have to stay if you don't want,' even though the 11-year-old was reasonably happy about doing so. Even now, this mother is still waiting in England to be close to her child rather than return to her home abroad."

At Queenswood, the complex process of settling in to school life involves housework alongside more academic subjects. Mrs Douglas says she is amazed by the number of new girls who have never lifted a duster before. "Some little girls are appalled to find themselves on back stairs duty, brushing the steps down, but they all get used to it."

Doubtless, vigorous vacuuming helps dispel homesickness which, Mrs Douglas adds, is perfectly normal: "At the beginning of term I had two little girls sobbing over a box of tissues on the knees. One kept clutching a pencil case and saying, 'My mummy gave me this', as though it were her only memento of home. Now those

little girls are perfectly happy. It's simply a matter of time."

Jenny Barker has five sons passing through the boarding school system. "It may sound awful but I don't mind them being away," she says. "I like the independence they come back with. Nevertheless, there are times when I have to swallow hard. When my first son, James, boarded at the age of ten, my mother said to me: 'Of course, you realise he's left home now, and it's true. I got quite upset when one of my boys, Oliver, signed his first letter home with his surname.'

Among the changes in her sons, Mrs Barker has noticed a curious mixture of selfishness and kindness. "At boarding school, they think only of themselves and not of their brothers. They become quite self-oriented, and when home, tend to assume each is the prodigal son and that everyone should do what he wants. At the other extreme, my son Tom — who's just gone to Stowe — remembered his grandmother's birthday the other week, which is quite unusual. Family means more when you're absent."

So do material possessions: Mrs Barker's eldest son has had a lock installed on his bedroom door to deter his younger brothers from coming in during his absence.

Short breaks — like half term and exams — are often more disorientating than long holidays. Mrs Barker's boys often refuse to sleep their uniform on returning home, saying it's not worth it as

they have to return in 22 hours, 12 minutes and 22 seconds. "At the end of a long holiday, they never pack their trunks until the last minute. But when they're at school, they love it. Children are like elastic: the more you stretch them, the more they come back."

Mr Whitlock believes that a short break home is not always long enough for her to re-establish a rapport with her children. "I have to drag school events out of Georgina and then, eventually, am treated to a long story in double Dutch. There's no doubt that you are divorced from their lives because you don't really know what they are doing away. It doesn't upset me too much because I've had time to prepare myself: boarding school was always on the cards."

Her younger daughter's first exit has already indicated character changes. "She was always quiet but now will talk to guests at the table which, before, was a big 'no no'. She also has to make her own top bunk at school so she takes her bed at home, after a fashion. My eldest daughter, Victoria, was a little scatter-brain when she first boarded, but will now put her clothes on a chair at night for at least the first ten days of a holiday."

At Port Regis in Dorset — where Peter Phillips, the Prince of Wales' son, is a boarder — Selina Deacon, a housemother, says she sees a greater appreciation of home when pupils return from holidays. "On the other hand, some mothers are saddened by the sudden independence their children acquire. I see a complete transformation during the first fortnight of arrival." Mrs Deacon says. "By then, they've learnt to change clothes three times a day and find out where they're going. They have an air of confidence about them resulting from challenges they've had to meet." Such challenges include changing duvet covers once a week. "It's a nightmare when they first arrive."

David Pritchard, the headmaster at Port Regis, who describes himself as father of 283 offspring, also feels for parents who are bowled over by their children's rapid maturity. "I had one distressed mother last Saturday whose only child didn't want to go home for the weekend."

Weekly boarders will already have been home since the start of term. But Diana West, whose nine-year-old daughter, Katrina, is a weekly girl at a prep school near Rugby, says it can take time for both parents and child to adapt to one set of rules from Monday to Friday and another during weekends and holidays. "Katrina gets confused about what she can or can't do at home and might be surprised if, say, give her a drink of orange when she's used to water at school."

When her daughter first boarded a year ago, Mrs West says she steered herself not to ring the matron until the third day of term. "She was a bit upset when I left so I wanted to give her time to adjust. After that, I didn't ring again." But any hiccups, Mrs West says, are easily outweighed by her daughter's greater sophistication, both in demeanour and vocabulary, although this new maturity also saddens her. "One is always a bit reluctant to realise they can do without you. Consequently, I tend to give her little treats when she's back, like taking her on shopping trips. I suppose one isn't entirely natural during these visits: I often start off by being overly nice."

As half-term ends, there will be the inevitable doom and gloom that Mrs West sees every Sunday night — despite Katrina's "loving" school: "There's a sudden depression around tea time. I try to be brisk and jolly; luckily she usually 'cheers up' during the hour's drive back to school. When we get there, Katrina's happy again, but it is rather strange driving home without her."

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Happy to get on with the job

Many of Britain's most successful Asian women have little time for feminism

WHEN Kim Hollis went to work, "you could see the other side thinking, 'Oh isn't she a sweet, pretty little thing?'. And because they'd underestimate me they wouldn't know how to handle it when I hit them. I play on it. I use the fact that I'm feminine to be successful. And no, I'm not a feminist."

Ms Hollis is a barrister and head of her chambers. She is also one of the Asian women who feature in a new book, *The Golden Thread*, by Zerbanoo Gifford, a Liberal councillor for Harrow and an adviser to both the Prince's Youth Business Trust and to Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Anyone searching for stories of downtrodden factory toilers must look elsewhere. "This book is about *shakti*, women power, the strength that Asian women have to offer," Mrs Gifford says. These are accounts of women who shine with success. The net is spread wide: the first Asian bunny girl is here, as is the world's fastest mental arithmetician. There are lawyers, doctors, writers and actresses. None has stood on the sidelines bemoaning her status as a foreigner; none has been defeated by racism or sexism. Most have simply ignored prejudice.

"I didn't stop to look for discrimination," says Jyoti Munissi, the senior legal adviser at Shell. When that company employed her 21 years ago, she was the first woman in its legal department. "Perhaps I was naive, I do have this optimism about the British. In many ways they are one of the most racist societies, they are also one of the most just. And India itself can be so segregated. This image of Asian women being docile is as much an Asian concept as a western one."

Such persistent belief in the docility and pliability of Asian females can be tailored to their advantage. "If my colleagues have given me support, it's because of — not in spite of — traditional qualities. 'Because we are possibly more thoughtful, less abrasive and aggressive,'" says Shyama Peters, a television presenter for BBC's Network East, "we will get there in a far more subtle and possibly satisfactory way."

The strength of Asian women is often derived from the greater social freedom of exile. When Shirley Daniel, the only Asian woman headmistress of a mixed comprehensive school in Britain, got my chances here. There was blatant racism at first and, as a woman, you've got a double fight on your hands. But if you can deliver the goods in Britain then the message goes round and you'll succeed."

Kim Hollis: no feminist

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ible to be feminist and feminine." Whether or not the word feminist is applied, achievement is considered possible because of — not in spite of — traditional qualities. "Because we are possibly more thoughtful, less abrasive and aggressive," says Shyama Peters, a television presenter for BBC's Network East, "we will get there in a far more subtle and possibly satisfactory way."

The strength of Asian women is often derived from the greater social freedom of exile. When Shirley Daniel, the only Asian woman headmistress of a mixed comprehensive school in Britain, got my chances here. There was blatant racism at first and, as a woman, you've got a double fight on your hands. But if you can deliver the goods in Britain then the message goes round and you'll succeed."

"And Asian women get on and do the job."

"I wouldn't dare go to India

right now," admits Katy Mirza, who is due to become a single mother next spring. The first Asian bunny girl is not averse to taboo-storming, but feels the sub-continent is unprepared for single parenthood. "I haven't met any man yet who will accept me for what I am — a happy blend of East and West. I want to raise my son with that special balance. For me the whole world is equal, so because I project that image I have no racism. Sexism and racism are two items that you can attract to yourself through the wrong image you give out to other people."

Not all the women are starry-eyed. "Maybe it's a mistake to highlight those who haven't experienced prejudice," observes Ms Munissi uneasily. "For every one of us" says Natasha Bijlani, a doctor at St Bartholomew's Hospital, "there are probably a hundred out there living lives of subjugation."

But positive discrimination, it is agreed, is not the way forward. "I don't think in British society it's necessary," Ms Daniel says. "If there are impediments, there is also the system to fight them." "It's death," agrees Ms Munissi. "You feed prejudices by introducing positive discrimination. I'd rather it took 20 years longer so that there is no trace of it. It gives people the excuse, before they've even tested you, of denigrating you and that's the end."

FIONNNUALA MCHUGH

The Golden Thread: Asian Women in Post Raj Britain (£17.95). Published by Pandora Press (0171-935 3000). Proceeds from the book go to Warwick University, where a Centre for Research into Asian Migration is being set up.

ARTS

BRIEFING

Parisian benefit

BRITISH poets are adding their voices to an international campaign to save the famous Shakespeare & Company bookshop in Paris. Three months ago, fire swept through the first-floor library of the shop, destroying thousands of valuable volumes. The "Great Shakespearean Tragedy" benefit poetry reading, to raise money for restoration of the library, will be held at Sherratt & Hughes bookshop (071-836 6757) in Covent Garden, London WC2, tomorrow evening. Among those taking part are Dannie Abse, Carol Anne Duffy, Eric Mottram, Brian Patten and Carol Rumens.

English on top

FOR the first time in 65 years, an Englishman has been elected president of the International Society of Contemporary Music. The composer Michael Finnissy, best known for his surreal reworking of folk-song material, will hold the post for three years. His English predecessor, 65 years ago, was Edward Denby.

Going private

YURI Grigorovich, the veteran supremo of the Bolshoi Ballet, has formed a new company of young dancers. Privately funded, it will bear the name Bolshoi Ballet Grigorovich Company, which cannot be a disadvantage at the box office. It will make its debut touring America next month, with a repertoire including Grigorovich's own *Nutcracker* production. Despite persistent criticisms that he already devotes too little time to the Bolshoi, Grigorovich will continue as director there.



Yuri Grigorovich: new troupe

Last chance

CLOSE your eyes and think of Valhalla if you are attending the last performance of *Stiegfried* at the Royal Opera House (071-240 1066) tomorrow. Gotz Friedrich's blandly acted staging certainly has ineffectual moments. But Gwyneth Jones, James Morris and René Kollo sing Wagner as well as any around today.

GALLERIES

Jewish seeing or Jewish-looking?

Four shows which pose questions on the nature of Jewishness, and a young abstract painter whose early success reflects his conservatism

Kitaj makes a useful distinction: he is interested, he says, in Jewishness rather than Judaism. This idea runs through most of the Barbican Art Gallery show, Chagall to Kitaj: Jewish Experience in 20th Century Art. The questions posed are: how does an artist's Jewishness manifest itself? Should it necessarily be manifest at all? Is there anything wrong with a Jewish painter if his work does not look Jewish? Is "looking Jewish" a matter of subject-matter or style?

In a large show, occupying both floors of the gallery and returning the abortive sculpture court outside to its original purpose, there is virtually no make-weight, and little that seems to be there just to make a political, social or religious point (although, of course, the very fact that the Barbican's "Israel: State of the Art" festival is overwhelmingly concerned with Jewish art is a political point). The variety of art on view is impressive, and so, more subtly, is its consistency. There is also the photography show, Israel - The Stormy Years, in the Concours Gallery.

Chagall to Kitaj is not primarily about Israeli art. Even those artists who count as Israeli come from extremely varied backgrounds. Inevitably the foster-culture rubs off. A Lithuanian/Brazilian artist such as Lasar Segall is bound to be different from the Italian/French Modigliani. The fascination lies in noting the differences yet recognizing family resemblances.

But the status of Judaic subject-matter is a recurrent problem. Of

course an artist who frequently paints synagogue scenes or the Yiddish theatre is immediately proclaiming Jewishness. But where does that leave Modigliani? There is no way of knowing from the nudes and portraits in this show that Modigliani was Jewish.

Perhaps Modigliani is included only because he is such a feather in the cap of Jewish art. Elsewhere, Judaic subject-matter seems to be desirable to ensure inclusion. Bomberg and Gertler are there, but not Meninsky, who never painted an overtly Jewish picture. Lasar Segal is in, but not Arthur Segal.

Curiously, some of the earliest pictures here are relatively non-committal; even when the subjects are clearly drawn from Jewish life, the late 19th-century international style evades definition. But then, a predisposition to the kind of turbulent emotion and strong colours normally labelled Expressionism comes into play. Though the German Expressionists numbered few Jews in their ranks, Russian

Expressionism was largely a Jewish invention. The way it developed, through the study of Jewish folk and primitive art, is clearly shown here, providing a background to Chagall, Soutine and Lissitsky.

The most interesting early Israeli artist, Reuven Rubin, with his elegant, slightly Deco figure compositions, is not touched with Expressionism at all, being as cool and stylish as Modigliani.

The Anglo-Jewish artists of the Bomberg generation, further explored in The Anglo-Jewish Contribution at the Boundary Gallery, impose themselves even among such distinguished international company. The numerous Ben Shahn encourage second thoughts on this now unfairly ignored artist, and help to keep the continuing Jewish contribution to American art in the foreground.

Inevitably, the Holocaust makes its appearance, but it is tucked away in the middle of the show, and the organisers seem almost to have found it an embarrassment. The prime emphasis is on the authentic Israeli ethos of dynamism, even aggression, and a positive approach to the future. By and large, the show is remarkably cheery. The Neue Sachlichkeit self-portraits of Felix Nussbaum, who perished in a concentration camp, totally reject pathos; even when he depicts himself with a yellow star and a Jewish identity card in 1943. And the extraordinary paintings of the Polish Jonas Stern, with their bones and their taliths incor-



Totally rejecting pathos: "Self-Portrait with Jewish Identity Card", 1943, by Felix Nussbaum

porated, may be sinister, but they are not depressive.

The show does not attempt to answer the question of whether the existence of Israel and its thriving national school makes Jewish art

more Jewish or less. In fact, it is hard to isolate anything in the work of the younger Israelis at the Barbican, or for that matter of the Five Artists from Israel showing at Pomeroy Purdy, which positively

has to be Jewish. Might the indefinably Jewish quality in earlier work come from a yearning for the lost homeland?

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

New star's course seems all too predictable

Anew star has been hailed. The 24-year-old Ian Davenport has an exhibition at Waddington's. The catalogue introduction by Norman Rosenthal, the Royal Academy's exhibition secretary, is a finely executed clarion call to the art establishment faithful. Yet the paintings are predictable; almost as though they have been designed by a committee of critics yearning for the return of the days when they used to tell artists how to paint.

Davenport drips emulsion house paint from the top to the bottom of the canvas and sometimes horizontally across it. The results could be described in art-speak as an extension of Greenberg's theories that led from Abstract Expressionism to Post-Paint-

erly Abstraction and Minimalism. The artist has produced an ideal Modernist solution. By using a robotically repetitive technique and mundane materials there is not the tiniest hint of illustration. The method of production allows for an element of randomness and a touch of seduction.

Davenport has been taught to be oblique. He graduated two years ago from Goldsmiths' College, which has made a virtue of being indirect, circuitous and marginally devious. Dishonest? No, but a certain pleasure is taken in the thinness of the borderlines. Other graduates, several of whom also showed at The British Art Show earlier this year, have not been able to maintain the tension. The

current exhibition certainly proves that Davenport has a fine sense of balance and an understanding of the way we take or avoid decisions today. The mandarins of the art world are not the only people vulnerable to presentations that display brilliant market analysis, good packaging, but little content.

Such accusations probably will not worry Davenport's many champions. They are likely to be more concerned with the cracks running down "Untitled Matt Black and Gloss Black", 1990. The use of house paint was intended to add to the smooth efficiency of production, but the cracks throw even the research and presentation into question.

Lance Smith is 16 years older than Davenport, but has

already received far more attention than most "young" artists. His present show, at the Blasón, a new Spanish-run Gallery near Vauxhall Bridge, is probably his strongest.

There are virtually no signs of the figure in Smith's latest paintings, though there are references to human presence. This has helped give his work a new coherence. There has always been an awkwardness in his work, but it has often appeared too contrived.

"Fall", 1988, for instance, may not yet have the controlled impact of a Motherwell or the vigour of Schenkel, but there is a sense of new purpose.

A distinguished gallery goer often growls through his beard that, "one only finds one good painting in every ten thou-

sand". It doesn't stop him visiting every new show with enthusiasm. Neither of these two exhibitions are likely to amend these cruel averages, but they provide their own rewards. At first sight Davenport's work could be that of a grand old master of seventy or eighty at the end of his career; it appears so highly finished. Smith, on the other hand, is volatile and the work shows it.

IAN DAVENPORT, Waddington Galleries, 5 & 34 Cork Street, London W1 (071-4137 8611), Mon-Fri 10-3.30, Sat 10-1, until October 27.

LANCE SMITH, Blasón Gallery, 351 Kensington Lane, London SW11 5QY (071-587 5198), Tues-Fri 9.30-7.30, Sat 10.30-3.30, until October 31.

ALISTAIR HICKS

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 50 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have

sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

TALKING HEADS

One of the most critically revered bands of all time, Talking Heads has been ahead of the field at almost every turn. As regulars at New York's CBGB club, they quickly established themselves at the epicentre of the American New Wave explosion. Then, in 1977, a seductive strain of straight-ahead rock, gilded with pretentious and intellectual pretensions and a large dollop of art-school angst. By the turn of the Eighties, they had taken to funk, disco and African rhythms, and in *Remain in Light* (1980) fashioned one of the groundbreaking albums of the decade. The follow-up *Speaking in Tongues* (1983) consolidated their position as the original World Music rock band, and provided their biggest US hit, "Burnin' Down the House". *Naïve* (1988) is a cosmopolitan riot of regional colour, but the band's energies have otherwise become dissipated in a succession of solo ventures, most notably by David Byrne on his album *Red Momo* (1989).

NEXT WEEK: U2, Van Halen

UB40

Snubbed by the purists perhaps, but UB40 remains the most popular reggae band by a mile. The members started out as angry young men, a multi-racial octet operating in tandem with the 2-Tone stable of groups in the Midlands. The early albums, *Signing Off* (1980) and *Present Arms* (1981), while introducing the languid rhythmic intricacies and sophisticated harmonic interplay between horns and which became their calling card, are also shot through with rather dated polemics railing against the Thatcher clampdown. Since then, the renovation of old material by other artists has been central to their work. This strategy was inaugurated on the No 1 album, *Labour of Love* (1983), which provided the hits "Red Red Wine", "Many Rivers to Cross" and "Cherry Oh Baby". With updated versions of "Homey Girl" and others on *Labour of Love II* (1988) added to a bulging portfolio of chart successes, the band has matured into a quietly dependable pillar of the rock establishment.

Now, continuing in his role as the Alan Whicker of rock,

RECORDS: ROCK

The return of Whicker man to the World Music trail

PAUL SIMON, The Rhythm of the Saints (Warner Bros WX 340C)

Simon has attempted the same trick with Brazilian music. But despite the blanket chat show, press and even news coverage that the project has attracted, the results are, perhaps inevitably, rather less startling this time around.

Much of the music is based on the glorious interlocking waves of percussion provided by the indigenous Brazilian group *Olodum* (a 14-piece drum troupe) and *UAKTI* (classically trained musicians using percussion instruments made out of industrial piping and the like).

"The Obvious Child" romps along to an insistent side-drum shuffle that sounds almost like a marching band in places, while "Further to Fly" proceeds in a more languid but no less insistent vein with the beat switching on and off a jazzy samba

groove. "She Moves On" has a dark, tropical feel, with an especially rich percussive mix oiled by deep, sensual plunges of the bass line.

Yet, unlike the smooth integration of musical cultures which distinguished *Groveland*, Simon's guitar and vocal parts initially too obviously grafted on top of these pulsating foundations. The melodies beat in after repeated listenings, but still lack some of the charm of his previous work.

"Can't Run But", a ghostly refrain built around a bare-boned tuning of the guitar motif,

sounds like an out-take from

the last *Sing* album, and

"Born at the Right Time" has a haggard pop chorus of limited appeal.

If the spoils of his latest cross-cultural excursion now seem relatively commonplace, it is only because Simon is a victim of his own outstanding achievements.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

COLOUR FIELDS: The work of Jules Olitski, one of the classic American colour-field artists of the Sixties, has not been seen much this side of the Atlantic in the last few years. He is painting as brilliantly as ever, with a new technical flourish.

FRANCIS GRAHAM-DIXON, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, London EC1 (071-250 1982); Tues-Sun, 11am-6pm, until November 18.

OUT OF SCHOOL: The celebrations of Eton's 550th anniversary are spreading briefly to London, via a display of 36 pieces from the College's splendid silver collection, dating from the 16th century.

SOTHEBY'S, 34/35 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-408 4167); Mon-Fri, 9am-4.30pm, Sat, 9.30am-12.30pm, Sun, 12.30-3pm, until October 26.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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TOWER RECORDS

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WHITE CHINESE RESTAURANT

CLIFFORD'S

RAY COONEY'S "Hugely funny" new play "MADE ME LAUGH MORE THAN ANY COMEDY I HAVE SEEN" IN THE WEST END THIS YEAR "Extremely entertaining" "A triumph" "A deliriously inspired partnership" "GLEEFLY FUNNY..." "SUPERB"

OUT OF ORDER

SHAFESBURY THEATRE

Tales with heart of granite

OPERA

The Vanishing Bridegroom
Theatre Royal, Glasgow

TO SAY that Judith Weir has done it again would be wrong, except that what she has done again is achieved something quite different: a piece denser and more monumental than *A Night at the Chinese Opera*, with more of the Scottish mist and cold and granite, and less of the oriental charm and irony.

The three linked stories of *The Vanishing Bridegroom*, commissioned by Scottish Opera, are all tales of experience won in a pretty dour fashion, and Weir's respecting of the symmetries of her folk sources gives them a dread inevitability. At the same time, her objectivity takes on a more complex function, since what the central characters learn — and, in the case of the reappearing bridegroom of the middle story, begin to express — they grasp against the grain of a score as unyielding as the mountainscape of Richard Hudson's excellently apt set.

Weir's people have to exist in a musical world which tries to deny the existence of messy individual psychology; a world of pattern and precision. Opera comes about as they and she learn to live with each other.

The first story, which seemed pretty black and clamorous at the time, full of men's voices and the gust of Hebridean psalm singing, turns out in retrospect to have been the comedy: a nice play within a play within a play, in

which a crime is solved and a woman gets married against her will, the pawn of every man in sight.

Then comes the lyrical interlude, in a treatment of the widespread legend of the young man seduced into spending years by rapturous siren song for the chorus in Gaelic; Weir's orchestration here too, is totally magical. Finally comes the most formal tale of the lot, with a repeat-structure musical momentum to push forward a game of riddles in which a girl outwits the devil. Here perhaps — though this is suggested more by Weir's programme note than by the story — is the beginning of female liberation, something again that has to be prised out of the hard texture of Scottish mythology.

The cast and chorus are thoroughly strong and well prepared. One mark of their quality, and of the judiciousness of Weir's scoring, is that nearly every word is audible; another is the lucidity with which the opera is displayed as a splendid ensemble piece, one in which small contributions from the Brothers and the Robbers in the first act are decisive. Typically, Weir makes no empty gestures, whether in the vocal writing or in the harshnesses, clangs and delicacies of her orchestral machinery, most of which, under Alan Hackett's direction, is securely in place and constantly surprising and beautiful.

Among the principals, Peter Snipp has what might be termed the title role, and lends it a very fine, fresh and sensitive youthful baritone; this is a wholly engaging performance. So is that of Virginia



Big, sensual singing: Virginia Kerr in *The Vanishing Bridegroom*

Kerr as the ignored bride, her singing big with sensual life before two consecutive folk tales have ground her down. Harry Nicoll, suffering from a cold, will no doubt come through more strongly as the tenor lead — there is already a promising spring to his performance — while Robert Poulton nicely graduates his progress from magus to devil by way of policeman, singing power-

fully throughout the production.

Elizabeth McCormick is the eventual heroine of the piece, and could do with a touch more flame to make her seem so more effectively. She has little help, though, from Ian Spink's production, which could put more trust in the formidable theatre of Weir's invention.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

presents the case-study of a takeover.

That explains why her play was the more energetic and imaginative, while his seems more authentic and authoritative, if also a bit softer. Here is a reputable company whose subsidiaries are profitable, while its central division endures the woes of a declining wire industry.

Larry's solution is the surgical removal of this core "cancer", never mind the loss of jobs, the damage to the local community, the firm's past contributions to America, and all the other things that matter to its old-school chairman, Jorgenson.

The intricate power struggle that ensues should not deter non-business audiences. Terms such as "white knight", "arbitrageur" and "golden parachute" are at least as well explained as in *Serious Money*. If there is an objection, it is to the implausibility of the lawyer fighting Larry being the daughter of Jorgenson's adoring PA. Some pretty mawkish, embarrassing stuff surfaces here. Yet this is no worse than a big, annoying pimple on the face of a play that draws the layman into a world he ought to know, and which should fascinate him with the logic and

the crackle of its warfare.

Paul Rogers is the bluff, genial, bloody-minded tyrant that Jorgenson needs to be; but there is some want of toughness at the centre of Alan Strachan's production. Marla Aiken brings a feisty, flamboyant charm to the role of the lawyer when she should be more brassy Wall Street. But the real problem is Martin Shaw's Larry, a roly-poly slob with an aggressive Bronx growl, the looks of a hedgehog, the ethics of Captain Hook, but not quite the hardness of the character needs. At times, he comes perilously close to being that dreadful thing, a lovable villain.

However, perhaps this reflects an ambivalence in the author. If almost any British dramatist had written the play, Larry would be nothing but the vile capitalist predator Jorgenson thinks him. But Stern is an American, and is prepared finally to concede that those who own New England Cable, the stockholders, have interests that even Larry the Liquidator may see better than a paternalist chairman. That, at any rate, is the not unstimulating thought that this entertaining, imperfect play leaves behind.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



DONALD COOPER
THEATRE
Other People's Money
Lyric

TIME was when villains tied maidens to railway tracks or stormed into town to shoot the sheriff and rob the bank. Nowadays they have neither moustaches to twirl nor horses to ride and, if armed with anything, it is with a lot of venture capital and a silly grasp of corporate law. At any rate, such is the view of Jerry Sterner, American businessman turned dramatist, and the creator of a peculiarly modern monster called Lawrence Garfinkle, alias Larry the Liquidator.

The efforts of this crass, ebullient asset-stripper to grab and dismember New England Cable and Wire are bound to provoke comparisons with Caryl Churchill's portrait of Big Bang chicanery, *Serious Money*. But there are two important differences between that and Sterner's play. She had a socialist agenda to pursue; he wants to save capitalism from its own excesses. Stylistically, she opted for sprawling cartoon; he

hosted to a derelict one-bedroom flat. She tumbles in, wearing a dressing gown and not much else, locked in an embrace with her shy friend June (Faith Edwards, dressed in a dressing gown and one slipper). Together they fill the office with a stream of risqué remarks addressed to Sheila, Hutchins, and, out of the window, a train driver who fancies June. Debbie is both awful (tack, tacks, manners, sense) and gloriously alive, funny and touching.

This performance, and Nigel Hughes's direction, gain stature in the second act, in which Debbie — now living with J, her boyfriend, and Charmaine, her baby — is visited in her new flat by Sheila. Fluctuating between aggression and blank despair, Clarke shows the vulnerability beneath the perky surface. Couple and child, as Sheila desparingly comments, seem locked in a repeating cycle of violence and deprivation. Clarke and Mark Monero, raw-edged and physically taut as J, also suggest that what these two need as much as a roof is a language which can connect, not hurt. At the end, with Sheila finally out of the picture (it is a tribute to Stella Tanner that we find her both right and annoying), there are signs of that language emerging.

HARRY EYRES

THE army in which these warriors serve is that of London's homeless, and it is over 150,000 strong. The author, Richard Edmunds, knows the battlefield well, having worked both for the Short Stay Homeless Project and as resettlement officer for the London service.

Initial prospects seem to be for an evening of earnest harangue rather than dramatic conflict, as Stella Tanner's gentle, put-upon social worker speaks — ostensibly on the telephone to the DHSS, but in fact to the audience — presenting the facts on homelessness. Her confrontation with Hutchins, an unbending charity director from whom she is seeking funds (an amusing cameo of beaky recitation from Robert James) adds humour, but not of the searching kind; he is a caricature, not a character.

The whole tenor of the evening is changed by the entrance of Catherine Clarke's Debbie, a 19-year-old client of Sheila's who is about to be rewarded for her fighting spirit by transfer from a

hostel to a derelict one-bed- roomed flat. She tumbles in, wearing a dressing gown and not much else, locked in an embrace with her shy friend June (Faith Edwards, dressed in a dressing gown and one slipper). Together they fill the office with a stream of risqué remarks addressed to Sheila, Hutchins, and, out of the window, a train driver who fancies June. Debbie is both awful (tack, tacks, manners, sense) and gloriously alive, funny and touching.

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HARRY EYRES

Answers from page 22

MORFLABULLARD

(a) A soldier with a voracious appetite, a glutton or greedy guts, what the Black Watch would call a 'Naafi gamet'. *Se morfaser* is French slang for to guzzle, stuff one's face, eat voraciously.

CHOCOTTE

(c) French slang for a fang or tooth, 'Il pris un parping en pleine poche, et crachat ses cocottes' The punch landed on his jaw and left him with a mouthful of assorted dentistry. *Avoir ses chocottes* is to be frightened out of one's wits (or teeth, presumably chattering so much in terror that they fall out).

PED ALEUR

(b) Pedal, banger, old motor car. *Ce n'est de la tire, ce n'est pas mieux que à châtrer!* Now that's what I call a proper car, not like that old crate of yours!

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

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CHIOTTE

(b) A bomp, banger, old motor car. *Ce n'est de la tire, ce n'est pas mieux que à châtrer!* Now that's what I call a proper car, not like that old crate of yours!

ENTERTAINMENTS
EVENTS

GEM & GENERAL FAIR MONDAY 10am-5pm Colgate, London EC1

COLLECTIVE 200 10am-5pm 2nd Oct-1 Nov 1990

NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE 10am-5pm 2nd Oct-1 Nov 1990

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Russia's key cities are facing all-out rationing

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW, Leningrad and a number of other Soviet cities face the prospect of all-out rationing in the new year, a senior economic adviser to President Gorbachev said yesterday. As Mr Gorbachev put the finishing touches to his speech on economic reform he is to deliver today, Academician Abel Aganbegyan painted a picture of economic gloom.

The academician, who has overseen the two latest revisions of the programme to transfer the Soviet Union to a market economy, also attacked Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation, for his dismissal of the new programme. He accused Mr Yeltsin of speaking before he had read the document and said that any "catastrophe" would reflect the performance of the republics' governments in implementing their chosen programme; the central programme comprised only "guidelines".

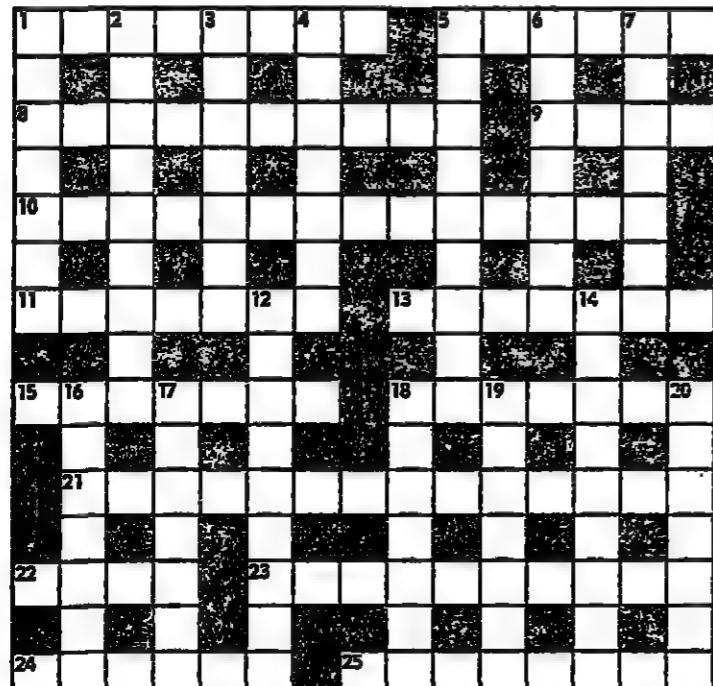
Academician Aganbegyan, addressing a joint meeting of parliamentary commissions in the Kremlin, held in preparation for today's full session of parliament, said that Leningrad had already decided in principle to ration basic goods early next year and that Moscow was considering the idea favourably. Although these two cities are traditionally among the best supplied in the country, they currently sell most food and consumer goods only to registered local residents. Sugar and tobacco are already rationed. The central Russian cities of Voronezh and Volgograd have started to introduce rationing for a wide range of goods, and others can be expected to follow.

The Soviet Union, he said, would have difficulty meeting its target of 60 billion roubles (£60 billion at the official rate of exchange) for this year's internal budget deficit, and had abandoned all hope of balancing the books in 1991. The target for next year was now a deficit of 25 to 30 billion roubles.

According to government estimates, he said, there was a surplus of at least 2 billion roubles in circulation, which was not matched by goods to buy, and he served warning that the measures required to control the money supply and curb inflation would be extremely harsh. "They will arouse a host of complaints," he said, but emphasised that the alternative was worse.

Mr Aganbegyan also indicated that both the reform programme and Mr Gorbachev's speech today were geared as much to Western creditors as to the domestic audience. The Soviet Union was facing considerable difficulties in attracting long-term credits, he said. "Any hint of political instability is very damaging to our foreign economic policy."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,429



ACROSS

- 1 Bed starts me nodding (8).
- 5 Not out of business, but shaky (6).
- 8 Talk about some banger (10).
- 9 Emphatic refusal to participate in American Open (4).
- 10 Used by blacksmith with great energy (6,3,5).
- 11 Beauty starts to expect envious inspection (4-3).
- 13 Painted lady brought low by Jehu (7).
- 15 Succeed in giving quiet clergyman trouble (7).
- 18 Cloud getting right into position (7).
- 21 The rest of one's face will go straight forward (6,4,4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,428



Folds of fabric: ready-to-wear chiffon dress from Rei Kawakubo at Comme des Garçons and a layered creation from John Galliano



Paris shows it is still the Mecca of chic

By LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR

THE seven-day marathon of 70 fashion shows that make up the Paris ready-to-wear collections has opened with the French capital clearly strengthening its position as the Mecca of chic.

The Italians may have the edge on the manufacturing side of the fashion industry. The British are seen as originators of off-beat ideas, and the Japanese are technologically sophisticated. But Paris is not giving up easily

its role as the fashion capital of the world.

The British are already making their presence felt. John Galliano, the British designer who is now rated 14th in the world class of designers according to a poll by *Journal du Textile*, the French trade paper, opened his parade with layers of slip dresses. Worn two or three at a time, they are so skimpy and sheer in slippery nylon and chiffon that they do not necessarily guarantee decent coverage.

It was a strong presentation, in which one original idea followed another — from knitted or chiffon-backed waistcoats to PVC conset-

led jackets worn with PVC hipster pants. Busties and back-packs swing. There were skirts and jackets made up out of a mass of flapped pockets and Magritte-style bowler hats.

More layers of fluttering chiffon came from the Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo at Comme des Garçons. Her finale was a spectacular line-up of stained-glass printed chiffon dresses worn over body suits.

Katherine Hamnett, another British design star, shows her collection tomorrow. The Scots designer Alistair Blair will provide Monday's highlight with his debut as designer at Balmain.

Acheson gives warning on liver

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PREGNANT women should not eat liver because of a possible risk to their unborn babies, Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, said yesterday.

He issued the advice after the Department of Health's committee on toxicity had examined evidence that the amounts of vitamin A in liver could pose a threat in large amounts, vitamin A is known to be linked with birth defects, although none have been reported in Britain.

It is suspected that high vitamin A levels in liver are caused by additions of the vitamin to animal foodstuffs. The agriculture min-

istry yesterday called on the European Commission to consider urgently whether limits should be set and it urged British foodstuff manufacturers to limit vitamin A to the levels recommended by the Agricultural Research Council. The ministry urged the council to begin tests of liver samples and to launch research into why vitamin A levels in liver are high.

Sir Donald's warning follows research reports from abroad of birth defects in the children of women who had taken vitamin A supplements greatly in excess of the recommended daily intake.

It is suspected that high vitamin A levels in liver are caused by additions of the vitamin to animal foodstuffs. The agriculture min-

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard
FROG CROAKS
MORALOBULLARD
a. greedy soldier
b. a pompous official
c. a loose woman
CHOCOTTE
a. a loose woman
b. A kind of creamy patisserie
c. a fang or tooth
PEDALEUR
a. a jogger
b. a smarmy creep
c. A loose man
CHIOTTE
a. a loose woman
b. An old hanger
c. A chocolate briochette

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

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WEATHER

will be slow to clear in places and it will be another murky, showery day. The heaviest of the showers will be in the south and east, while western parts will see some sun. Northern England, southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy, with outbreaks of rain. Northern Scotland will be mostly dry. Outlook: dry for a time, but more rain later.

ABROAD

MIDDLE EAST (left): thunder, d=drizzle, lg=fog, s=sun, si=sleet, sn=snow, t=tail, c=cloud, re=rain

AROUND BRITAIN

SUN Rainy Max

Scarborough 1.4 13 63

Hastings 1.4 17 63

Crewe 5.0 17 63

Nottingham 0.3 16 61

Bournemouth 0.4 15 61

Poole 0.4 15 61

Southampton 0.4 15 61

Weymouth 0.4 16 61

Exmouth 0.5 16 61

Falmouth 0.5 17 63

Penzance 1.4 16 63

Solent 0.3 15 61

St Ives 0.3 17 63

Newquay 0.3 17 63

Cardiff 0.3 17 63

Minneapolis 0.7 16 63

Blackpool 1.6 21 63

Morecambe 0.3 17 63

Glasgow 0.1 17 63

Birmingham 0.1 17 63

Bristol 0.1 17 61

Leeds 0.7 17 61

Newcastle 0.3 14 57

Nottingham 0.5 18 64

Sheffield 0.5 17 64

Anglessey 1.7 21 64

Cardiff 1.1 24 64

Southend 0.3 17 64

Aberdeen 0.3 11 63

Galway 0.1 17 63

Leeds 1.2 26 61

Sheffield 0.2 26 61

Nottingham 0.5 14 57

Wick 2.4 24 61

Belfast 0.4 24 61

Wednesday's figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 16°C (51°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 15°C (59°F). Humidity: 65 per cent. Wind: 6 pm to 6 am, 10 mph; 6 am to 6 pm, 0.47 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar: mean sea level, 5 pm, 1,004.6 millibars, rising.

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Bedford, 20°C (68°F); lowest day temp: Aviemore, Highlands, 9°C (48°F). Highest rainfall: Machyness, Shetland, 0.27 in. Highest sunshine: Lowestoft, Suffolk, 5 hr.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

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MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 12°C (54°F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.14 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11°C (52°F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.21 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 5 hr.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Greater London 701

Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702

Dorset, Hampshire & IOW 703

Devon & Cornwall 704

Wales 705

Wales, Monmouthshire 706

Beds, Herts & Essex 707

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708

West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent 709

Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester 710

Central Midlands 711

East Midlands 712

Lincolnshire & Humberside 713

David & Peterborough 714

Gwynedd & Cheshire 715

N W England 716

W & S Yorks & Dales 717

N E England 718

Cumbria & Lake District 719

S W Scotland 720

Aberdeenshire 721

Angus & Dundee 722

Orkney & Shetland 723

Highland 724

Caithness, Orkney & Shetland 725

N Ireland 726

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 19 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Ketson calls in receiver

KETSON, the troubled public relations group, has asked its banks to call in an administrative receiver. A formal appointment is expected today.

Earlier yesterday the shares were suspended at 37p, their low for the year, valuing the group at just £2.69 million. Rupert Stanbury, chief executive, said Ketson had been brought low by its heavy reliance on the financial services sector, which had seen a rapid downturn this summer.

Loss reduced

French Connection, the fashion group, made a pre-tax loss of £220,000 in the six months to end-July, compared with a loss of £248 million. Sales increased from £26.7 million to £28.7 million, and the loss per share was 0.1p (15.6p loss). The interim dividend remains at 0.9p. The shares were unchanged at 32p.

Tempus, page 25

Fisher at £74m

Albert Fisher, the fruit and vegetable group, hints at acquisitions because, it says, the group has a healthy cash position. Tony Millar, executive chairman, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £74.4 million (£44.9 million) for the year ended August 31, on a turnover of £1.04 billion (£80.6 million). A 1.85p (1.5p) final dividend makes 3.35p (2.75p) for the year.

Tempus, page 25

Furness sale

One of Britain's largest shipping companies, Furness Withy, has been bought by an associate of Hamburg Sud of Germany, creating the largest European shipping grouping to serve Latin America. Furness was sold by Hong Kong tycoon Mr C H Tung. Hamburg Sud operates container services from Europe to Latin America.

Ray of Hope, page 25

Dan Air outlook

Davies & Newman, owners of the troubled Dan Air group, promised shareholders a statement on prospects "as soon as possible".

THE POUND

US dollar	1.9540 (-0.0110)
German mark	2.9493 (-0.0188)
Exchange Index	94.4 (-0.6)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	1618.1 (+17.3)
FT-SE 100	2082.6 (+14.6)
New York Dow Jones	2436.39 (+48.52)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg	24357.08 (+507.72)
Closing Prices ... Page 28	

Major Indices and major changes Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	13.5% - 13.75%
3-month sterling bank	13% - 13.5%
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	7.75%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.27-7.25%
30-year bonds	9.92-9.97%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ 1.9540	\$ 1.9540
DM 2.9493	DM 2.9493
Swf 1.2735	Swf 1.2735
FF 1.8845	FF 1.8845
Yen 124.65	Yen 124.65
Index 94.4	Index 94.4
ECU 10.2062	SDR 10.73374
ECU 14.3481	SDR 14.362591

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$370.00 pm \$357.25
	pm \$365.50-\$367.00 (C187.50-188.00)
New York	Comex \$357.00-\$357.50*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) ...	\$33.65/bbl (\$35.70)
* Denotes latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.82	2.82
Austria Sch	6.26	6.26
Belgium Fr	2.93	2.93
Canada \$	11.08	11.08
Denmark Kr	7.33	7.31
France Fr	8.71	8.71
Germany Dm	3.07	3.07
Greece Dr	3.04	3.04
Hong Kong \$	15.82	14.92
Iceland Pr	2.80	2.80
Italy Lira	28.50	28.50
Ireland £	1.15	1.15
Netherlands Gld	3.47	3.27
Norway Kr	11.87	11.87
Portugal Esc	2.01	2.01
South Africa Rd	5.20	4.70
Spain Pt	12.50	10.78
Sweden Kr	11.42	10.00
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.50
Turkey Lira	2.65	1.95
USA \$	2.65	1.95
Yugoslavia Ddr	25.50	15.50

For small denominations back copy ordered and charged to Robert Fraser Bank PLC. Order ref: 122.3 (September).

The company has net assets

Holding back stake would send 'worst possible' signal to the market

Advisers oppose partial power float

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government has run into stiff opposition from its City advisers over its insistence that it may hold back 40 per cent of the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales, which are to be floated on the stock market soon.

All six stockbrokers involved in the issue are believed to have made it plain to the government that they do not want to see any of the electricity distribution industry remain in government hands after dealing starts in December. But Whitehall is insisting on retaining the option of floating only 60 per cent and is requiring parallel plans to be drawn up by its advisers for partial and complete sales.

The brokers are now conducting presentations with a range of City institutions who will be expected to underwrite the £4.7 billion issue and

gauging their attitude to the float. There are three main points of debate. There is concern that a war in the Middle East may knock the float off course, although it seems that at this stage that concern is not paramount. Institutions would like to see some sort of "safety net" in the underwriting agreement which would allow them to walk away from the float if it turns sour, but it appears that many tacitly concede that this would not be acceptable to the government, which insists on maintaining control of the issue.

There is debate over the price, and therefore the yield the government will have to offer to get the issue away safely. It is accepted that the distributors will have to be slotted between British Gas, now offering a prospective yield of 7.5 per cent, and the water companies package which offers 7.9 per cent. To this will have to be

added a 10 per cent "issue discount" to ensure a healthy aftermarket. This puts the distributors on a prospective yield of about 8.5 per cent. While the government advisers would like to see a lower figure to maximise the proceeds of the issue and some institutions would like to see higher, both seem to be largely in agreement.

What gives rise to most opposition is the prospect that 40 per cent of the distributors may be left in government hands. There is a strong feeling in Whitehall, which is concerned about future Public Accounts Committee scrutiny of the sale, that the water issue last year was sold too cheaply because of the turbulent market conditions that preceded it. A partial sale, some Whitehall sources feel, is one way the government can ensure that the current difficult times on the market do not give rise to a repeat performance. The City is

likely strongly to resist a partial sale. One broker close to the issue, who did not wish to be identified, said the Whitehall attitude amounted to "PAC paranoia". He added: "People weren't in the least bit concerned about it previously (a partial float) because they didn't believe it."

All the government brokers were now advising against a sale of just 60 per cent, he said. "The government bears that advice but reserves the right not to take it."

The government points to previous partial sales such as British Telecom and Cable & Wireless which did maximise proceeds to the Treasury. But both those companies, the brokers point out, have showed a far faster growth rate post-flotation than the distributors can hope for.

A decision to go for a partial sale at this stage would be a sign of political cowardice, the brokers believe, and the worst

possible signal to the stock market. In addition there is a problem as to when the secondary issue could take place. Installation payments for the distributors stretch over the next two years, after which there is a series of regulatory reviews of the industry which could severely upset a further sale. Government advisers, however, are insisting that the decision to go for full or partial float will not be taken until the last possible moment, which is impact day on November 21.

• Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, claimed last night that there were now a total of 155 companies advising on the privatisation of the electricity industry. The eventual bill, he estimated, would approach £150 million. He said that between them eight advisers had contributed more than £150,000 to Conservative party funds over the past year.

Growth in wages reaches highest level since 1982

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

WAGE inflation has accelerated to the highest rate seen since early 1982, while unemployment has risen for the sixth month in succession, according to August employment and earnings figures released by the employment department.

Government ministers expressed concern about the high rate of wage growth and gave warning that it could make British companies uncompetitive against their European rivals now that the option of devaluation had been ruled out by entry to the exchange-rate mechanism.

Although the increase of 13.00 in the seasonally adjusted unemployment figure was at the low end of expectations, trade union and Labour party spokesmen claimed it as evidence that Britain was sliding into recession. They also pointed out that the rate of growth in wages was still lagging behind the rate of retail price inflation, which hit 10.9 per cent in September.

Average earnings rose by an underlying 10.4 per cent in the 12 months to August, the highest rate since April 1982, when pay inflation was 10.9 per cent. The increase in average earnings unadjusted for distortions such as the timing of pay settlements was 10.9 per cent in manufacturing in

per cent if the figures for the last three months were averaged out.

While the pay and productivity figures were welcome for John Major, the chancellor, and the government, the unemployment statistics were better than expected. Seasonally adjusted unemployment increased by 13,000 to 1,667,000 and the percentage unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8 per cent of the workforce.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, had been bracing himself for a rise of about 20,000 after the 22,000 increase announced last month. Nevertheless, Mr Howard described the rise as "disappointing".

He said: "Progress in creating jobs and achieving a return to a downward trend in unemployment depends on realistic wage settlements. Our entry into the exchange-rate mechanism reinforces the need for both companies and their employees to work together to contain their costs by ensuring that pay settlements do not rise above an affordable level." As the chancellor has said, if they fail to do so, they will not be bailed out by a devaluation of sterling.

In July, the rate of productivity growth was reported as 1.1 per cent. Averaging out the productivity figures for the three months ending in August, the rate of growth was 1 per cent. This meant that manufacturers' unit wage costs, the most important single indicator of international competitiveness, grew by 9.7 per cent in the year to August and by 8.6 per cent in August.

Unemployment in August rose in all areas except the West Midlands, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

There was further bad news in Britain's productivity figures. These showed that productivity growth in manufacturing slowed to 0.2 per cent in August against a year earlier.

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Offer is certain to appeal to non-oil producing nations, particularly in the Third World and Eastern Europe, whose economies have suffered greatly as a result of the increase in oil prices. Oil traders remain confident that Iraq will not be able to breach the embargo to deliver the oil.

Bulk petrol fell \$22 to \$36.7 a tonne on the Rotterdam spot market and prompted a fresh round of oil price cuts in Britain. Esso and Texaco announced cuts of 4.5p off a gallon of four star petrol to 26.8p and 26.9p respectively, moving back in line with Shell, which reduced forecourt prices on Wednesday.

Iraq is offering to put any money due from crude sales into a special trust to be unlocked once the problems in the Gulf are resolved. The

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LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET

Mentality of the going rate will cost us markets

Extracts from the speech of John Major, the chancellor

IT SEEMED likely that 1990 would be an uncomfortable year and so it has proved. Economic policy has been dominated by the struggle to get control of the inflationary pressures that were evident in the large current account deficit and, of course, in the inflation figures themselves.

The cause of the problem was excess demand. And the remedy that we put in place was a firm monetary policy that is now clearly working.

All the monetary aggregates now tell the same story. Annual growth of narrow money, M0, has been reduced in every month since April and is now within its target range; M4 growth has fallen steadily throughout this year to reach its lowest point since June 1987. We have seen a welcome recovery in the savings ratio from 4.9 per cent in the third quarter of 1988 to 7.7 per cent in the second quarter of 1990.

Earlier this month sterling entered the exchange-rate mechanism. This event marks a significant development in the conduct of monetary policy. The news was greeted with rapture in some quarters, and with deepest gloom in others. Neither of these extreme reactions seems to me to be right. What entry to the ERM amounts to is an extra dimension to our monetary discipline. I have no doubt it will bring benefits for the UK. But I do not agree with those who argue that the ERM will bring those benefits in the short-term and then have long-term costs. Precisely the reverse is true. Entry will require tough action in the short-term to ensure low inflation thereafter. The disciplines of the system will force both the government and the private sector to make difficult choices.

For the private sector, I am thinking in particular of the control of costs including labour costs. The days have gone in which businesses could simply negotiate around the RPI and assume that a falling exchange rate would keep them competitive with their European rivals. Keeping our costs in line with, or lower than, those elsewhere in the community is now essential.

And it is, of course, the directors and managers of British companies who must ensure that they stay competitive. The government cannot do it for them. It will be no use businesses bewailing the

ERM cannot oblige us to accept the imposition of a single currency

not. Both interpretations might have weakened the exchange rate and damaged the prospect of entering at a central rate that would make our counter-inflationary intentions clear from the start. I took the view, therefore, that the markets should be aware of both those factors at the same time — hence the joint announcement. To be frank, I thought that was the most

To summarise, there is no doubt about the problems of 1990. I do not promise that 1991 will be easy either: we will continue to need tight monetary and fiscal policies

Our record as good Europeans is excellent. It was Britain

that was instrumental in seeking a Budget deal that kept the community viable; Britain which has helped remove the worst excesses of the CAP; and Britain which has implemented more single market measures than all but one of our community partners. Many so-called "good Europeans" are in practice very bad Europeans when it comes to opening up their markets to competition.

that debate has taken.

Increasingly the focus of attention is on the practical steps after stage 1 as our partners in Europe recognise that the prerequisite to further integration is convergence of economic performance. Moreover, there is an inherent absurdity in arguing about the length or date of stage 2 before determining what should be in it.

Our proposals for a European Monetary Fund and a hard euro are well known. They provide an evolutionary approach based on the market and choice. They recognise that economic convergence is far from satisfactory. For the present, differences between the relative performances of the 12 are striking. Annual rates of inflation in the community range from 2% to 22% per cent; short-term interest rates range from 8% to 18% per cent; and public sector budget balances range from a surplus of 3% of GDP to a deficit of over 17% per cent. And the degree of flexibility in the economies of member states varies considerably.

As we draw nearer to the inter-governmental conference in December, we shall

continue to take a practical and constructive approach. But no one should misinterpret our position. Joining the ERM did not commit us to adopting, and cannot oblige us to accept, the imposition of a single currency in Europe.

But I have made it perfectly plain that under the UK's proposals, the hard euro could ultimately evolve towards a single currency if it were the wish of governments and people to accept it in preference to their own national currencies. But I have also indicated that it is neither necessary nor desirable to take a decision of that kind now.

While the debate continues we are looking for practical ways in which the existing basket euro can be developed. In 1988, we launched the euro Treasury Bill programme and since then firms have introduced an euro interest rate contract. Tonight I can announce some further modest moves in that direction. The Bank of England is already consulting gilt-edged market-makers about the basis on which they can extend their dealings to cover euro bonds as well as the sterling instruments they already trade. I welcome that. I am now giving consideration to an euro bond issue, at the appropriate time,

Chairman resigns at Courtney

DAVID Peacock, non-executive chairman and a director since 1972 of Courtney Pope, the loss-making shopping, lighting and engineering group, has resigned, becoming the fourth board member to leave the company recently.

Mr Peacock, who has been in poor health, is to be replaced by Ronnie Aitken, the company recovery specialist.

Last month, the company announced a pre-tax loss of £3.58 million, after giving warning in July of a £2 million loss. Stephen Lewis, chief executive, who joined the company in 1989, said a financial and strategic restructuring proposal had been presented to Courtney Pope's banks. The shares ended the day unchanged at 33p.

Jarvis profits slip to £708,000

Jarvis, the construction and property group, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits from £1.07 million to £708,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover slipped from £55 million to £34 million.

The company said profits for the year to end-December will be less than those for the nine months to end-December 1989 as a result of the property recession.

Earnings per share fall from 3.8p to 2.6p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.825p and there is a scrip dividend alternative. Shares held at 51p.

Linton Park up

Improved productivity and higher prices from tea estates helped Linton Park to pre-tax profits of £5.95 million in the six months to end-June, against £4.1 million last time. Turnover was £61.6 million, against £71.8 million previously. Interest payments rose from £1.47 million to £1.77 million. Earnings per share jumped from 6.6p to 13.6p. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p. There was an extraordinary credit of £2.26 million.

CBI urges long-term reforms to poll tax and business rate

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LONGER-term reforms to the uniform business rate and the community charge have been proposed by the Confederation of British Industry, which said that the government's reforms of local government financing had failed to increase local accountability.

Many companies have been unhappy with the UBR, arguing that it will increase their costs so much that some of them will be forced out of business.

The CBI supports the objectives behind the community charge and the uniform business rate. John Banham, CBI director-general, said yesterday that there must be no return, as the Labour party seemed to be proposing, to anything like the rates system, or "the days of taxation without representation for business, and representation without taxation for householders".

But Mr Banham told the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation conference in Scarborough: "It is clear that the reforms have not achieved their original objective of strengthening local accountability. As a result, the retail price index has been boosted by an extra one percentage point, fuelling additional wage demands."

In the short term, next year's UBR should reflect estimated future general price inflation, not estimated inflation on local authority costs, or the September RPI figure.

Mr Banham said that the government should now consider reforming the system in the longer term by ending general grants to local authorities, requiring businesses to meet the costs of only those services from which they directly benefited, by making the poll tax pay in full only costs under direct local authority control, and by improving local authority efficiency.

Caird has recommended Severe Trent's offer for the ordinary shares but rejected the offer for the convertible preference shares.

The company is expected to appeal if the Takeover Panel rules in favour of Severe Trent.

Severe Trent has acquired 29.9 per cent of the company's ordinary shares at 100p a share and is likely to be left nursing substantial paper losses if the offer is withdrawn.

Peter Linacre, currently chairman and chief executive of Caird, has said he will relinquish his dual role if the company retains its independence, and the board is seeking to appoint a non-executive chairman.

The call, which is part of the company's submission to the government review of the existing BT/Mercury duopoly, may reflect the views of many American phone companies with UK interests. Senior US



John Banham: reforms have not achieved objectives

Brent Walker fails to maintain rally

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Brent Walker, the leisure group, rallied strongly in early trading after Wednesday's 24p fall.

However, after losing some ground in afternoon trading on the International Stock Exchange, they closed 14p better at 74p, after 80p.

At that level, the price is still 66p below the 140p conversion price of the company's capital bond.

The listing particulars for the £103 million issue, which requires the approval of shareholders, are expected next week.

Meanwhile, lawyers acting for Brent Walker and Grand Metropolitan are preparing for the dispute over the £50 million that GrandMet alleges Brent Walker still owes it as an escrow account.



Entry to ERM not an easing of policy

Extracts from the speech by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England

WE DID, of course, combine ERM entry with a one percentage point cut in interest rates. Perhaps the first thing to make clear about this is that when taking the decision we knew that, while the real economy was softening and inflationary pressures were easing, the inflation rate itself had not yet peaked.

Because of this, some in the financial markets said the interest rate cut was premature.

To such doubters I would make three points: first, the most recent economic and monetary data provide clear evidence that the conditions necessary to reduce inflation are now coming into place; secondly, at 14 per cent, interest rates remain high; and thirdly, the continuing restraining influence of high real interest rates has been considerably reinforced by ERM entry itself.

It would be quite wrong to see the steps taken a fortnight ago as designed to bring about any significant easing of our policy stance.

Others have said that the interest rate reduction was both too small and too late; that we should do more, and quickly.

But I am afraid that that would not be compatible with getting inflation decisively lower.

In fact, complaints about policy, from whatever source, would have been more appropriate when monetary conditions became too relaxed.

which would demonstrate further our attachment to the euro and would strengthen London's important position in this rapidly growing market. Another practical step which we shall support is the proposal that member states' contributions to the European Development Fund should in future be denominated in euro.

In summary, Mr Lord Mayor, I look forward to the 1990s as the decade in which we will make further improvements in our economic performance; in which we will continue to play a leading role in creating an open and liberal Community; and in which we can look forward to London consolidating its position as the financial centre of Europe. We should aim for nothing less. And accept nothing else.

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Shares in Caird fall over fears on bid

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Caird Group, the waste disposal company, fell another 11p to 59p amid speculation that Severe Trent will be allowed by the Takeover Panel to withdraw its 100p-a-share cash offer.

Caird's advisers yesterday met the Takeover Panel to argue that Severe Trent should be obliged to press on with the bid even though the company has conceded that profits for the 18 months to end-December will not exceed £7.2 million before tax.

Severe Trent's offer, which values Caird at £78 million, was conditional on the company reaffirming its original profit forecast of £8.5 million.

Severe Trent is also objecting to the inclusion within the forecast of profits of £1.5 million from property sales and has expressed concern about an extraordinary charge of £3 million in respect of anticipated losses and closure costs within Caird's venture property development companies.

Caird is basing its case on the company's anticipated performance during the final six months of the 18-month period.

Caird has recommended Severe Trent's offer for the ordinary shares but rejected the offer for the convertible preference shares.

The company is expected to appeal if the Takeover Panel rules in favour of Severe Trent.

Severe Trent has acquired 29.9 per cent of the company's ordinary shares at 100p a share and is likely to be left nursing substantial paper losses if the offer is withdrawn.

Peter Linacre, currently chairman and chief executive of Caird, has said he will relinquish his dual role if the company retains its independence, and the board is seeking to appoint a non-executive chairman.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP US property blow for NatWest subsidiary

THE dire state of the property market in America's Northeast is continuing to cause damage to National Westminster Bancorp, the NatWest group's American subsidiary.

It suffered a net loss of \$36.3 million in the third quarter after making further provisions of \$102 million against loan losses. The loss was down from \$106 million in the April-June quarter and from \$141 million a year ago. But it brings NatWest's American losses for the first nine months to \$305 million against \$252 million last year.

• Continental Bank made net profits of \$40 million in the first nine months, down from \$205 million a year ago, but this was all earned in the third quarter, the best in the past five quarters.

GA in £9.4m Norway deal

GENERAL Accident, the British insurance company, has acquired Aktiv Forsikring, a Norwegian insurance company, for Kr110 million (£9.4 million) in cash. The acquisition is conditional on approval by Norwegian regulatory authorities. The deal represents another step in the concentration process, mainly affecting small insurance companies of the European insurance industry.

Chillington slumps CHILLINGTON Corporation, the diversified industrial, property and plantations group, is raising £4.9 million through an open offer of loan stock and has announced reduced interim profits. The funds will be used to reduce short-term borrowings and "to maintain the company's programme of long-term development of its overseas interests without being deflected by the short-term development in the UK".

Pre-tax profits for the half-year to end-June were down 59 per cent to £1.19 million. The company said it remained confident of the long-term potential of its overseas plantations business. It intends to pay a final dividend of not less than 3p, making 5p (7p).

Tarmac issue a success

TARMAC has successfully issued \$300 million of auction market preferred shares in the largest issue of its kind by a British company. The proceeds will be used to repurchase preferred stock of Tarmac America, with the balance being used to reduce group borrowings. The preferred stock was issued in 1988 to finance the acquisition of 40 per cent of Lone Star Industries, which had losses of £2 million.

Scholl sells hosiery firms

SCHOLL is selling two hosiery businesses in a management buyout for £300,000. The companies, Amcor, in Holland, and Werner, a holding company, to be 80 per cent owned by Zwi Markuszower, Amcor's general manager. Amcor made pre-tax profits of £370,000 last year, while Werner made pre-tax profits of £2 million.

Markets are seldom benign when chancellors are due to speak, as the gauges see such occasions as an opportunity to test their resolve and engage in a little harmless speculation. As John Major was putting the final touches to his Mansion House speech at tea-time yesterday, as the bankers and merchants were tying their little white bows, the forces at work in the markets dropped sterling below the DM2.95 level at which it entered the exchange rate mechanism.

The emphasis potentially switched from keeping the lid on to deflating the rate for the first time since sterling went into the mechanism two weeks ago. Those who said the problem would be keeping sterling down, because high interest rates and a parity protected within defined boundaries would be an unbeatable combination, rather than keeping it up, are less sure of their ground.

In part, this is because of the unappetising meal being cooked up by the latest run of statistics, in particular the latest earnings figures. Against this backdrop,

Mr Major was not kidding when he said last night that the days have gone when business could simply negotiate pay rises around the RPI and assume a falling exchange rate would keep them competitive.

He wants to see the "going rate" gone, and made the welcome and sometimes overlooked point that restraint is as relevant to pay in the boardroom as on pay on the shopfloor.

Government claims that the underlying increase in average earnings has now stabilised at 10.25 per cent are only credible for those with exceedingly short memories. In June and July, the figure had stabilised at 10 per cent. Now the government has had to revise upwards that July figure to 10.25 per cent.

Whether August's similar figure will have to be revised upwards next month is to be awaited. If so, then perhaps we will be able to claim that earnings are stable at ever higher levels of

settlement. All this is merely statistical bantering. What is unavoidably clear is that earnings figures have been on a general upward trend for more than a year, precisely at a time when high interest rates were supposed to be bearing down on companies' ability to settle high pay claims.

Each month, the government has said they are too high. Each month they have gone up.

It may be that the pay settlements fuelling the earnings figures are now coming down. That is what the latest provisional figures from the CBI Databank indicate. It may be, too, that like the earnings figures, the CBI data really is provisional. With double-figure inflation and seri-

ous skill shortages, it may be that, despite increasing overall unemployment, the upward pressures on pay are at least as strong, if not stronger, than the downward pressures, even after ERM entry. If that is the case, what can the government do? Answer: not much. Ministers may be right in believing that the bunching of settlements now will mean the pay pressure easing over the next few months and that, by the time of the next bunching in April when the public sector in the main settles, the economic climate – and especially the RPI figure – will be considerably better and will force pay deals down. But, in the meantime, despite ministerial advice to employers and employees to

settle lower or see job losses follow, the earnings figures look set to go marching on.

Polly Peck

Polly Peck's leaders should stop talking, get their act together and name a new chairman. News that shares in Noble Raredon were suspended should the ripple effect is far from over. That Midland Bank, which is laying claim to every penny of Polly Peck money which passes through its accounts, pulled the rug from under the feet of Asil Nadir's sister proves the banks are not taking any chances.

Indeed, the word on the street is that the lenders' committee is seeking another merchant bank adviser to shore up Chartered West LB which has been too close to the fracas to view it with cold precision any longer.

A new chairman must have a

good track record in a fight and be able to take on skittish lenders and shareholders without offence. Anthony "Cob" Stenham has turned the job down as have several others who have been quietly sounded out. No one can blame them.

They need to be able to work with Asil Nadir and if necessary to work without him if the Serious Fraud Office finds there is indeed fire accompanying the smoke.

Sitting calmly on the Standard Chartered board is Rudolph Agnew who has not been extended at all since leaving Consolidated Goldfields one year ago. Standard Chartered is one of PPI's biggest lenders in Britain and convened the meetings of lenders which resulted in the five-week standstill on debt repayments to give the company time to put its house in order.

What about Standard allowing Mr Agnew to stand aside as a director long enough to oversee the recovery of debts amounting to more than £1 billion and saving shareholders' funds of almost half that? Over to you, Rodney Galpin.

TEMPUS

Albert Fisher draws up its Christmas shopping list

JAMES GRAY



Fruit of success: Tony Millar, of Albert Fisher

fresh air that Chesterfield Properties is telling the world to expect a lower value for its portfolio by the year end.

Market interpretations suggest this could translate from last year's 1.305p share to about 1.075p, a fall of 17.5 per cent. The fact that the shares hardly flickered at 340p suggests that investors were not surprised by the warning.

Chesterfield's mix of central

London offices and retail properties has performed strongly in the half year to end-June. Gross rentals rose 30 per cent to £13.6 million. A near £600,000 increase in income from other activities helped lift turnover from £12.7 million to £16.4 million.

Revenue profit before tax emerged at £7.84 million against £6.3 million, while earnings per share climbed

from 17.97p to 21.1p, a gain of 17.4 per cent. The interim dividend is 7p (6.5p).

Two developments, offices at Houndsditch on the eastern edge of the City and a retail project in Rochdale, were mainly responsible for £7.9 million of capitalised interest. But at least Chesterfield's gross rent roll covers its interest payments, which is more than can be said for a number of property firms.

The shares, on a discount of 50 per cent to likely year-end asset value, look superficially attractive. But the bear market has further to run in property. Another year of shrinking assets is likely to follow, reducing the discount further.

French Connection

CITY pundits reading the advertising slogan "French Connection – clothes you can't wait to get into," recently might have added the rider "and shares you can't wait to get out of". Over the last two years the USM-quoted firm's shares have fallen steadily from 125p to 32p.

But there are now signs that the fashion retailer may be starting to recover. In the six months to end-July, the pre-tax loss was £220,000, down from a loss of £2.48 million, and the interest charge has been reduced from £1.05 million to £738,000. Sales increased from £26.7 million to £28.7 million and the loss per share was 0.1p compared with a loss of 15.6p last time.

The interim dividend is 0.9p, unchanged on last time, and the directors have waived interim dividend payments to themselves of £112,000, having waived dividends of £30,000 last year.

Analysts expect the group to break even in the year to January after a pre-tax loss of £4.7 million last time. Profits should grow to about £1 million next year if Mr Shen's magic continues to work, putting the shares at 32p on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 4.85. It may not be too much longer before the shares begin to recover, even if it would be too much to expect any fireworks.

Call for modern ships provides ray of hope at Cammell Laird

AS THE worldwide search to

find a buyer for the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead gets under way, 2,100 workers with an axe hanging over their heads have one crumb of comfort.

Now may be the best time to buy a United Kingdom shipyard for 30 years or more.

World order books for ships are at their fullest for 13 years. According to Lloyd's Register, tonnage under construction in August was 39.9 million gross tonnes, up 46 per cent in just a

year. The upturn comes after a slump in the world shipbuilding industry which lasted for most of the Eighties.

The improvement does not reflect any increase in the demand for ship capacity. Instead, owners are replacing obsolete and inefficient ships with more modern vessels which pay for themselves through lower running costs.

Delivery times are lengthening, however, and according to some reports, the cost of a new ship has doubled in the past two years. Owners are becoming alarmed.

Faced with the risk that they may not be able to take delivery of new ships in time to cash in on improving charter rates, ship owners are taking an interest in acquiring their own construction yards.

Nowhere is the trend more obvious than in the United Kingdom. At the turn of the century, the UK built half of the world's ships. Last year, it accounted for just 0.77 per cent of world tonnage built.

Shipbuilding in the UK has experienced a long, agonising decline.

The dislocations became so acute that in July 1977, Sir Graham Day, then head of Cammell Laird, enthusiastically complied with govern-

ment instructions to nationalise the industry.

Upon formation, British Shipbuilders had 87,000 employees and comprised 35 companies, including some equipment suppliers. But the move was not a success. Over the past decade, its yards have been closed or returned to the private sector.

Today, there are 13 yards regularly building merchant ships in the UK. Only three build ships more than 120

metres long, and of those, two are foreign owned.

According to Nick Granger, director of the Ship Builders' and Ship Repairers' Association, the total value of ships built in the United Kingdom each year is £200 million to £250 million, equal to the turnover of a single middle-rank industrial company. He puts the total order book at just £500 million.

But in an industry with long lead times, today's snapshot can be deceptive.

The United Kingdom's biggest shipyard is Harland & Wolff at Belfast, which has been bought by employees backed by Fred Olsen, the Norwegian shipping businessman. He has supplied it with orders for a series of big tankers to equip his own fleet.

The next largest yard is Govan, on Clydeside, which is now controlled by the Kvaerner family, another group of Norwegian ship owners. It is building a series of

metres long, and of those, two are foreign owned.

Merseyside, Scotland and North Devon, employ 150-400 people each, building coasters, harbour tugs and small ferries.

VSEL, which owns Cammell Laird, wanted to turn the yard over to merchant ship construction, but because it was designated a warship yard, access to the European Community support scheme was refused. The scheme provides a subsidy of up to 20 per cent of the cost of any ship built, provided no profit is made. Without its assistance, Cammell Laird could not compete for orders. The EC was more mindful of its desire to reduce capacity so that subsidy could be ended.

Yet the 140-acre Merseyside

yard has the facilities to produce large ships of 150,000 tonnes under cover. Converted to merchant ship production, it would rank equal second by size with Kvaerner Govan.

With wage rates now 40 per

cent lower than Japan, the world leader, the United Kingdom should once more be a competitive place in which to build ships.

Mr Granger believes world

demand could soon equal yard capacity, pushing up construction rates, obviating the need for subsidies, and making shipbuilding a profitable industry once more.

That is a prospect which gives hope to Hugh Tibury,

the merchant banker at Morgan Grenfell who is charged with finding a buyer for Cammell Laird.

He said: "Since 1984, there

have been 20 British shipyards which have changed hands. There is a demand. And there is a general upturn in the merchant ship market. Prices are probably firmer now than they have been for many years."

He has drawn up a list of

more than 60 companies that he will approach in his efforts to sell the yard. They include shipbuilders, ship owners, and industrial and engineering companies.

Already, more than half a dozen inquiries have been received at Morgan Grenfell or VSEL, Cammell Laird's parent company, at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

The last submarine under

construction at the yard will

not be launched until February 1992. Even if its fitting out was transferred to Barrow, it is hard to imagine that any buyer could take over earlier than that.

But by then, if industry

pundits are correct, a shortage

of shipyard capacity might

make Cammell Laird an

attractive asset.

ROSS TIEMAN

Industrial Correspondent

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Talk pays for Troubleshooter

ADAM Smith's law of supply and demand has proved true for Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former ICI chairman and one of Britain's most colourful businessmen. Harvey-Jones, who commands fees of up to £10,000 as a public speaker, claims that he is being offered such sums because he is trying to cut back on extraneous commitments. "If you don't want to do something the price goes up," says Harvey-Jones, aged 67, who has become something of a popular hero through his work on *Troubleshooter*, the BBC television series. "When I retired four years ago I wanted to spend a quarter of my time on education, a quarter on unpaid good work, a quarter on companies and a quarter on articles, books and television. The balance is the same, but I have become too widely spread," Harvey-Jones, a long-time supporter of Britain's entry to the European exchange-rate mechanism, fears that the timing of the move will hurt British industry. "It must have been a political rather than an economic thing and we may be locked into an unduly high exchange rate. That worries me, since Britain has already lost too many of its manufacturing sectors," Harvey-Jones, who lives with his wife Betty in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, hopes to finish his latest book before the end of the year and has yet to decide whether

Robinson's reign

ANN Robinson, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, has scored a double first in Brussels. She has become the first Briton and the first woman to chair the industry section of the economic and social committee of the European Community. "There is an enormous agenda covering everything from regulations on motor vehicle engines to competition and anti-trust policy," says Robinson, aged 53, who expects to work closely with Sir Leon Brittan, the competition and financial services commissioner. "My job is to ensure fair play," she says. Formerly senior lecturer in politics at the University of Wales, Robinson has served on the EC's economic and social committee for the past four years, commuting between Belgium and London.

Hooke or by crook
ROBERT Hooke, head of Euro-economists at Banque Paribas Capital Markets, has run into difficulties with his bid to sail around the world single-handed. Hooke, aged 48, who set out from Newport, Rhode Island, last month on the first leg of the BOC round the world race, is stranded in the doldrums off the North African coast. "His steering column has broken," says an associate. But Hooke, a for-

CAROL LEONARD

Slump in flow of funds for investment

MANY of the woes of the stock market in the early summer, when prices fell on low turnover, appear to have been the result of a sharp drop in the flow of funds into institutions for investment. The additional investment funds rose by only £4.8 billion in the second quarter, down from £8.4 billion in the first quarter and a quarterly average of £8.3 billion since the beginning of 1989, according to Bank of England figures.

Of this lower inflow, £2 billion was kept in cash or other short-term liquid assets, somewhat less than in the first quarter, so that only £2.9 billion was invested, against £5.6 billion in the first quarter.

Investment in British shares

bore the brunt of the shortfall, ploughing from £2.4 billion to £580 million, and the institutions were also net sellers of £400 million of gilt-edged, having been net buyers for the previous two quarters.

Investment in land and property in Britain also fell from £600 million to £230 million, the lowest for a year, but investment in foreign shares partly recovered, from £590 million to £1.2 billion, nearly half the level in previous quarters.

Jazz in Jets II

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

THIRD MARKET

ECGD	1.00 min. 13-22-12%			
Sterling Export Finance: Make-up day Sept.	1.00 min. 13-22-12%			
Agreed rates Oct 24, 1990 to Nov 25, 1990.	1.00 min. 13-22-12%			
I: 15.76 per cent. Schemes II & III: 16.27 per	1.00 min. 13-22-12%			
cent. rates new Sept. 1, 1990 to Sept. 23, 1990.	1.00 min. 13-22-12%			
IV & V: 14.955 per cent.	1.00 min. 13-22-12%			
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
2214.0	2174.0	2105.0	2138.5	4414
2176.0	2178.0	2178.0	2172.5	1
Sterling Previous open interest 23173				
Previous open interest 2138.5				
US Treasury Bond				
86.55	86.55	86.45	86.45	23414
87.77	87.78	87.78	87.78	1
PRECIOUS METALS				
Platinum spot \$1426.75 (2241.10)				
Palladium spot \$1462.35 (2462.35)				
Gold Silver: \$4 18-4.20 (22 140-2 155)				
Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three months ECU	82.97	82.95	83.57	8301
Dec 90	—	82.95	83.57	75
US Treasury Bond	82.95	82.95	83.57	75
Dec 90	—	82.95	83.57	75
American Eagle: \$377.00-380.00 (\$192.00-195.00)				
New Sovereign: \$88.00-90.00 (\$45.00-46.00)				
Old Sovereign: \$88.00-90.00 (\$45.00-46.00)				

--- Eurodollar Previous Open Int
--- 91.95 92.01 91.95 92.01
--- 92.12 92.15 92.11 92.11

LONDON FOX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	
Dec 653-652	AMT Futures	Official prices/volts previous day (£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Boston Worl
Mar 658-659	Sep 774-775	1348.0-1348.0	1328.0-1328.0	754250	
May 725-723	Dec 805-802	378.00-379.00	363.00-364.00	47450	
Ju 750-749	Mar 825-823	1851.0-1852.0	1357.0-1352.0	148700	
COFFEE	Vol 8082	8190-8200	5200-5210	5880	
May 583-582	AMT Futures	2033.0-2035.0	1859.0-1861.0	55225	
Jan 597-596	Ju 810-810	9650.0-9750.0	8450.0-8500.0	17666	
May 589-588	Sep 825-824	1 (Cents per Troy oz.)	(5 den/tonne)		
May 623-622	Nov 838-835				
UGAR	Vet 4446				
CO	C Cane/				
Aug 220.2-14.8	Vet 3732				
Oct 218.4-14.8	Aug 2184-17.8				
Dec 218.4-15.8	Oct 218.4-17.0				
Dec 222.0-10.0	Dec 222.0-10.0				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES		LIVE PIG CONSIDER		Live Pig Considered	
WAT corns (50t)	Vol 366	Avg's fatstock price at representative markets on October 18		Price	Stages
113.90 Jn 18.40	Mr 122 (20 t)	Open	Close	72.65	121.12-101.56
125.40 Ju 127.10	Sp 109.90	95.3	98.6	-3.46	-10.75
WHEAT (20t)	Vol 286	Nov	107.0	68.1	-6.06
113.50 Ju 117.75	Mr 120.75	92.0	94.5	114.3	-48.3
121.70 Sp 108.75	Nv 111.75	Feb	98.8	122.24	-15.7
WABAN	AMT Futures	Live Cattle Considered			
		Open	Close		
		100.3	102.0		
		98.3	100.0		
		96.3	98.0		
		94.3	96.0		
		92.3	94.0		
		90.3	92.0		
		88.3	90.0		
		86.3	88.0		
		84.3	86.0		
		82.3	84.0		
		80.3	82.0		
		78.3	80.0		
		76.3	78.0		
		74.3	76.0		
		72.3	74.0		
		70.3	72.0		
		68.3	70.0		
		66.3	68.0		
		64.3	66.0		
		62.3	64.0		
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		58.3	60.0		
		56.3	58.0		
		54.3	56.0		
		52.3	54.0		
		50.3	52.0		
		48.3	50.0		
		46.3	48.0		
		44.3	46.0		
		42.3	44.0		
		40.3	42.0		
		38.3	40.0		
		36.3	38.0		
		34.3	36.0		
		32.3	34.0		
		30.3	32.0		
		28.3	30.0		
		26.3	28.0		
		24.3	26.0		
		22.3	24.0		
		20.3	22.0		
		18.3	20.0		
		16.3	18.0		
		14.3	16.0		
		12.3	14.0		
		10.3	12.0		
		8.3	10.0		
		6.3	8.0		
		4.3	6.0		
		2.3	4.0		
		0.3	2.0		

BP to sell interests in New Zealand

By MARTIN BARROW

BP HAS agreed to sell its exploration and production interests in New Zealand to Fletcher Challenge, the industrial conglomerate, for NZ\$360 million (£110 million).

The interests include an 18.75 per cent stake in the offshore Maui field and a 37.5 per cent stake in the onshore Kapuni field, both of which produce gas and condensate for local consumption.

BP will retain some financing obligations for the Maui B platform now being installed. The sale does not affect BP's oil refining and marketing interests in New Zealand.

The company will also retain interests in forestry and chemicals.

The deal is the latest in a series of disposals which reflect BP's strategy of focusing on core interests and relinquishing assets which are considered non-strategic.

Fall for Amer

Amer, the diversified Finnish consumer goods group whose shares are listed in London and Helsinki, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £60 million maria (£22.36 million) to FM66 million during the six months to the end of June on sales of FM4.02 billion (FM4.07 billion). Earnings fell from FM8.6 a share to FM3.5.

Forward Technology passes dividend

By PHILIP FANGALOS

FORWARD Technology Industries, the ultrasonic cleaning to video and audio duplication equipment maker, has passed its interim dividend after the company plunged into the red at the halfway stage.

The company reported a pre-tax loss of £1.13 million in the six months to end-June, compared with a profit of £925,000 last time. Turnover from £17.8 million to £19.8 million.

Henry Prevezor, the chairman, said: "It now seems probable that video activity will not meet projections as customers' confidence in placing orders for the Christmas market has been eroded following receivership of Parkfield Group."

The electronics division made a trading loss of £538,000, against a profit of £1.1 million last time, on turnover increased from £12.9 million to £14.2 million.

Mr Prevezor said: "Since the onset of the Gulf crisis, there has been marked fall-off in demand in the electronics division as customers foresee a period of difficult trading."

He added that the sound and vision section showed a "healthy increase" in video activity, with volume ahead 65 per cent. But additional fixed costs to meet the anticipated increase in volume resulted in reduced margins. The division made a trading loss of £92,000, against profits of £147,000 previously, on turnover up from £4.97 million to £5.54 million.

However, it is feared that a massive stock overhang in the sound and vision division, where margins are already under pressure, could lead to losses of more than £1 million in the current year.

There is no interim dividend, against 0.6p last time. The board has "deferred consideration of a dividend until the full year's results are known".

There is a 2p loss per share, against earnings of 1.7p last time. Interest payments jumped from £169,000 to £302,000.

UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, has downgraded its pre-tax profits forecast from £2.75 million to £500,000 for the current year.

Shares in Forward Technology Industries fell 1p to 11p.

Cauldon to buy fasteners firm

By MARTIN BARROW

CAULDON Group, the toolmaker that was the subject of a reverse takeover by the privately owned Reece in April, is to buy an industrial fasteners distribution business from Wheway for £900,000. The company also proposes to change its name to Reece.

The acquisition is to be financed through a one-for-four rights issue of new shares at 11p a share, underwritten by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, to raise £2.4 million. The balance of the funds raised will be used to reduce borrowings and provide additional working capital.

The company is also selling its two loss-making nursing homes to Planning and Healthcare Consultants for



End of the road: Ronald Li on his way to prison

Li jailed for four years on bribe charges

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

RONALD Li, former chairman of the Hong Kong stock exchange, has been sentenced to four years' jail for two counts of bribery.

Li, aged 61, was also ordered to pay legal costs and to forfeit nearly HK\$900,000 profits he made on the corrupt share deals.

He was convicted of two charges of accepting preferential allocations of shares as the reward for supporting the listing of Cathay Pacific Airways and Novel Enterprises Limited in 1986 and 1987.

Li showed no emotion as the sentence was read out. His lawyers said they would appeal against the conviction and sentence.

John Lloyd-Eley, Li's counsel, asked the judge to consider Li's good character and his public services. Li's family had suffered a great deal since his arrest in 1988 because of the anxiety and the disgrace of the charges. The arrest also effectively ended his long career at the exchange.

Mr Lloyd-Eley added that neither the exchange nor any listed companies suffered as a result of Li's actions. Mr Justice Kemal Bokhaly said

the offences were very serious, as they involved corruption in a high place.

He said that because Li was a wealthy man, there was less excuse to engage in corrupt dealings but he was not imposing a heavy sentence, because of Li's good character and charitable work. The maximum penalty for charges under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance is seven years' jail and a fine of HK\$500,000.

Mr David Mendick, the secretary for monetary affairs, said the government took the decision to prosecute Li because it did not want the security system to be seen to be abused.

Li still faces six charges of accepting advantages as an agent, along with Jeffrey Sun, former chief executive of the exchange, and five former vice-chairmen. The charges involved the listings of six Hong Kong companies.

Li's solicitor son, Alfred, is charged with two counts of aiding and abetting the seven in soliciting preferential allocations of shares.

They are all due to stand trial in Hong Kong's high court on February 25.

Production of cars for export up by 73%

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

PRODUCTION of cars for export jumped by 73.1 per cent last month to underline the growing importance of overseas markets for British manufacturers.

Figures issued yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed that cars built for sale abroad increased to 36,765 from 21,242 in the same month of last year.

Production was also up by 8.6 per cent at 110,548 compared with the 101,817 total for September 1989.

Exports have been vital to helping car makers stave off the worst of the fall in demand in the home market, with sales running above 12 per cent below 1989's record totals.

Production of cars is down by 5.3 per cent in the first nine months, from 987,977 to 936,059. Exports have continued to rise, reaching more than 241,000 cars in the nine months, compared with 1989's total of 280,729.

The picture is not so bright for commercial vehicle manufacturers, with production in September down 20.1 per cent to 21,718. Exports were also 20.2 per cent down at 7,648, underlining the difficulties faced by the truck makers, hit by spending cuts.

Operating profit from

Gerrard interim profits increase

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

GOOD positioning ahead of the announcement of Britain's entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism and the cut in interest rates has increased trading profits of Gerrard & National Holdings, the discount house group, at the start of the second half of its financial year.

Gerrard shares fell 7p to 278p. The interim dividend has been doubled to 6p per share to reduce the disparity between interim and final payment. The group paid 19p for 1989-1990 as a whole.

Gerrard has, however, been forced to make a further "significant" provision against its undisclosed inner reserves for the closure of its

Ocean Wilsons slides

By MARTIN WALLER

DRAMATIC changes in the Brazilian economy sent profits before tax from Ocean Wilsons, the investment group which owns a tugboat operation in Brazil, sliding from £6.53 million to £478,000 in the six months to end-June, although the half-year dividend is held at 0.5p.

The company says it failed to take full account of Brazil's 54 per cent inflation in December in its 1989 accounts, and pre-tax profits are restated from £13.7 million to £9.7 million.

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The Economist

لأنه في النصل

Nostalgia in the driving seat

Driving a classic car could save company executives tax and bring back a few motoring memories

High technology in 1955 was a Bakelite box housing the flickering black and white screen of early television. Nautilus, Britain's first nuclear submarine, was launched and Flash Gordon, thrilled children at Saturday morning cinemas with his adventures in his space rocket.

Bakelite was left behind, while Flash Gordon's mode of transport was clearly a bit of Hollywood jiggery-pokery, no more than a puppet on a string powered by a feeble firework.

Citroën, however, provided the real thing that year: a car so adventurous in design and engineering that the rest of the world was still trying to copy its futuristic features decades later.

The Citroën DS started the motor industry when it was unveiled at the 1955 Paris Motor Show. Apart from its aerodynamic shape, it had power steering, power-operated disc brakes and revolutionary hydropneumatic suspension, starting a lineage of technology and design that led to the Citroën XM becoming last year's European Car of the Year.

Over 20 years, 1.4 million DS models were built, but remarkably, only about 127,000 found their way out of France. Most were used to pound the rural French countryside and cobbled city streets. The DS was a workhorse of immense abilities then, and, according to Mark Housden, could be a workhorse again as a company car for British businessmen. Mr Housden, who used to work for a design company, fell in love with the DS in France and decided to bring restored models to Britain.

Driving a car at least 20 years old would fill most company drivers with fear. Most of us forget that compared with the modern car, the models we once cherished were a mixed bag of the unreliable and the uncomfortable. Not so the DS, with its wonderful suspension and upright, armchair-like seats.

Fully restored, with Connolly leather and English wool carpets, the DS could charm the most hard-hearted of company drivers. Mr Housden, a former BMW driver, is convinced that many motorists would happily exchange their company Fords and Vauxhalls for the quirky DS.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

EDITED BY RODNEY HOBSON

Helping enterprise by sweeping away city dirt and decay

A GROUP of business people has formed an association based on the philosophy that if surroundings are improved, business will flourish (Brian Collett writes).

The New Square Mile Business Association was set up in the area of Hackney and Islington, close to the City, by business people frustrated by the dirt and decay of east London. The group has about 130 members, mostly small businesses but including a few large companies.

The association has been so effective that some members now believe it could be a model for other districts where an unfriendly environment blights business.

Steve Grady, the chairman, and manager of the Barclays Bank Business Centre in City Road, Islington, said: "The area seemed to have been neglected by both Hackney and Islington councils. There had been too little spending on the roads and Old Street tube station. Approaches by individuals did not work, but we have had quite a degree of success."

The association carried out an environmental survey and sent a report with photographs of the worst hazards to the two councils. The problems outlined by the report included litter, holes in the roads and damage to pavements, all of which the association considered were bad for business. The problems were then attended to, Mr Grady said.

"We like to think that our presence has forced the issue."

Existing organisations do not meet the need as we do. We saw we had to be punchy and hard-hitting. For example, Old Street station was scruffy and dirty. Islington council, which is responsible for the subways, has now tidied them up and new lighting is being installed, making the place safer and more attractive."

The association has provided litter bins, in co-operation with the councils, and a clean-up group. Mr Grady believes that when the environment has been improved there will be more business-to-business activity.

Could this association be the first of many in Britain? "We have been thinking that way," Mr Grady said.



By BRIAN COLLETT

THE advantages of colour-coded crates for furniture removal have been recognised in the business world for some time, but until Neil McGrigor set up Teacrate Rentals, the system was not available to the public.

Mr McGrigor, aged 29, discovered that independent crate rental companies served London's 540 removal businesses, but none dealt with home moves.

He formed the company in April to hire out polypropylene crates to the do-it-yourself home-mover. His background of five years work in the City was valuable. At the Britannia Security Group, he dealt with mergers and acquisitions and had experience of organising cashflow and drawing up business plans. The group even had a crate rental subsidiary.

Mr McGrigor started the business under the government's Enterprise Allowance scheme and also raised £50,000 equity. He took premises opposite the BBC Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush, and the BBC became one of his clients.

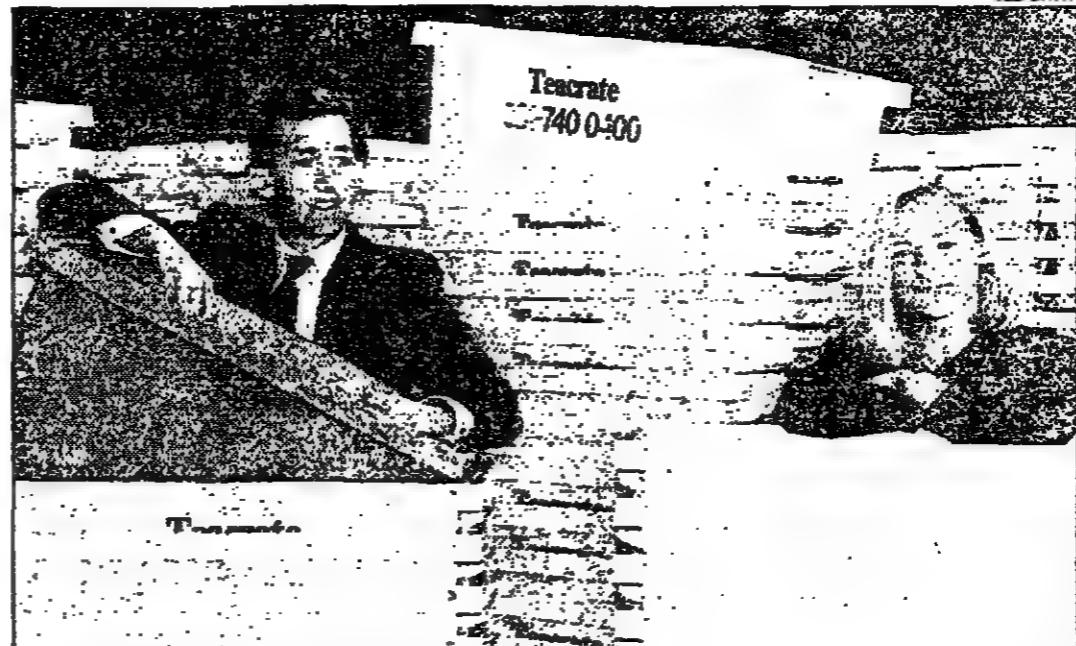
Although Mr McGrigor supplies corporate bodies and removal companies, which deal mostly with commercial moves, he also provides a service for individuals. At least half of Teacrate's clients are now home movers.

Part of the company's success lies in the colour coding system it uses. The colour of a crate can denote the type of contents or the room from which it has been filled.

Mr McGrigor chose the name Teacrate to associate it with his customers' minds with tea chests,

Freight by colour-coded crate

TED BATH



Stacking up business: Neil McGrigor and Christine Little with their Teacrate containers

the traditional house contents container that his crates replace. He had forecast a first-year turnover of £41,000, followed by £121,000 in the second year. "We are now where we had budgeted to be in January 1991," he said.

Despite the stamp in the house market, business has been so brisk that the company has nearly run out of crates on two occasions. "Both times a new supply of crates came in and went out the same day," Mr McGrigor said. "Once we had to redirect the delivery truck straight to the client. That was far too close for comfort."

Mr McGrigor said: "We are

finding that client satisfaction is our best advertising. We have not had to do too much marketing. Word of mouth has done most of it for us." Teacrate also distributes brochures to estate agents and truck rental operators.

The continuing growth of the business in the domestic market may limit its activities to London for some time. Mr McGrigor explained: "The crate rental business is so undeveloped and so big potentially that I could exist on London trade alone."

He even refused an offer to link with a company in Paris, where there is a large market. Mr

McGrigor sees the simplicity of crate renting as one of the factors in the company's success. The business is free of high technology, so there is less to go wrong mechanically with the product and it requires few staff.

The company consists of Mr McGrigor, his brother, Kenneth, Christine Little, whose previous experience includes public relations, and two drivers.

Mr McGrigor said: "It is all very exciting and vastly more satisfying than working in the City. But the key has been attention to detail. We have to count in and count out every single crate."

BRIEFINGS

■ A NEWSLETTER is being started by the Women's Enterprise Development Agency, which was formed in 1987 to support and advise women wishing to go into business or already trading. The newsletter, aimed mainly at self-employed women, is to be quarterly and the first issue is due out in a few weeks. The agency is also producing a free advice pack, sponsored by British Gas and Central Television, on the use of interpersonal skills. Telephone: 021-359 0178.

■ TWO distance learning programmes to help small businesses to trade in the single European market have been produced by the Open University. *Bigger Europe for Small Business*, outlines small enterprises' strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities and threats. *Costing the Options*, gives marketing and financial guidance. Each pack costs £75 plus value-added tax. The two packs cost £140 plus VAT. Contact: Open University Business School, Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BB.

■ THE full network of training and enterprise councils is complete two years ahead of schedule, with 31 fully operational and 51 being developed. The 82 councils covering England and Wales manage local training programmes for young people, the unemployed and the business community.

■ SENSOR, a Northampton company, provides a central clearing house for businesses with turnover of less than £5 million. Users put their purchasing needs into a computer which distributes the information among potential suppliers. The Talking Business service costs £225-£375 a quarter. Telephone: 060 250521.

■ SINCE food and catering is one of the most popular areas for new business, but has a notoriously high failure rate, Upstart Publications has produced a guide to setting up as a caterer. Contact: Upstart, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London, W4 4PH, tel: 081-994 6477.

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BASEBALL

An unlikely hero dooms Oakland to another defeat

Cincinnati

JOSE Canseco is probably the best baseball player in the world. He is a pivotal part of the Oakland A's machine. Oakland A's, everyone said before the World Series began here on Tuesday, were unquestionably the best team in baseball.

The A's are ossum. Canseco is ossum. Canseco's salary is ossum - \$23.5 million over five years would certainly help with the mortgage repayments. Everything was set, then, for the 1990 World Series to be a showcase for the colossal talents of baseball's No. 1 power-hitter.

No one writing a World Series preview paid much attention to Billy Bates. Bates had not managed so much as a hit in anger for the Cincinnati Reds (a hit being the achievement in reaching first base by your own efforts). He had had only three hits in his brief major league career.

Canseco is 26, oft 4in. walks with a superstar's slouch, and has a neat haircut. You can recognise him because of the five dozen reporters around him. Bates is 26 and 5ft 8in. He has batted eight times for the Reds this season, and been in their starting line-up once. The Reds' manager, Lou Piniella, might well have left him out of the roster for the World Series. "I was just happy to be part of the team," Bates said.

Which brings us to game two of the World Series on Wednesday night here: a game that began with a mighty display of the power of Oakland and of Canseco — and ended with Billy Bates whose late night heroes gave Reds a 5-4 win in the tenth inning. There are nine innings in a baseball game, but when the sides are level, they just carry on until the tie is broken.

All in all, this was a perfectly wonderful night of sport. Baseball is a game in which situations gradually develop; tensions slowly gather.

GAME TWO FACTS

Game Two (at Cincinnati)

	Runs perinning	Totals (after 10 innnings)
Oakland	103 000 000	8
Cincinnati	200 100 010	1

PITCHING: Oakland: Welch, Honeycutt (6th Inning); Eckersley (10) and Hausey, Stenbeck (10). Cincinnati: Jackson, Scudder (3), Armstrong (5), Charmon (8), Dibble (9) and Oliver. Winning pitcher: Dibble (1-0 in series). Loser: Eckersley (0-1). Home runs: Oakland: Canseco (1). Game One: Cincinnati won 7-0. Cincinnati lead best-of-seven series, 2-0.

BOWLS

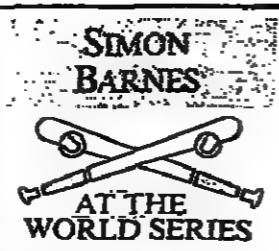
Play-off heralds a new format for next year

A CHANGE of policy by the English Women's Indoor Bowls Association (EWIBA) has spawned a new event to determine who will represent England in the British Isles championships at Prestwich in March (David Rhys Jones writes).

English champions have always had to make hasty arrangements to take part in the British event, which follows hard on the heels of the national championships, but, in future, England's cause will be fought by the previous year's champions.

This winter's national champion will therefore, compete next season's British title, but play-offs are being held at Luton this weekend to prevent last year's champion having an uncontested second bite of the cherry.

DRAW: Singles: C Robertson (Shots Morden); V M Steele (Egham); G Smith



Hatcher's hits

GAME ONE: First inning: walked on Davis's home run; third double, scoring Larkin; scored himself on O'Neill's ground-out little double; third single; fourth single, triple, infiedl single.

GAME TWO: First inning: double, scoring Larkin; scored on Davis's ground-out; third double; fifth out; singles picked off at first; eighth triple; scored on Brad's ground-out; triple infiedl walk.

"This is the real A's you're seeing now," someone told me. The Reds were deep in trouble and their pitcher Danny Jackson was even deeper. He was withdrawn after conceding all those runs in the third. Cincinnati looked demoralised. It seemed that we were in for a rout.

But the wild events of the night were only beginning. Once after another, the Reds' relief pitchers regained control. In the remaining seven and a third innings, Oakland did not score again.

Cincinnati pulled back a run in the fourth. They were always struggling, walking up

the down escalator, but finally, in the eighth, they drew level. This was all down to another player in the super-star class. Canseco had something to do with it as well.

Billy Hatcher is your classic journeyman pro. A good man to have on your side. Not a man to strike fear in opposing hearts and to trail crowds of reporters. But he is having the most almighty series. No one can get him out. Every time he steps up to bat, he gets a hit.

Oakland began by scoring a run almost effortlessly in the first inning: the dashing Rickey Henderson working his way around the bases one by one. In the third, the A's moved to 4-1. Canseco hit a home run with one of those uncanny shots you expect to see only in cricket: the merest tap that sends the ball soaring into outer space.

His walk-off triple in the eighth went in Canseco's direction. Canseco went after it and the superstar muffed it. The ball bounced off his glove. "It's a play that if you want to win the game, you have to make," the A's manager, Tony LaRussa, said afterwards.

Hatcher went on to score the run and the game went into extra innings. The Cincinnati relief pitchers had done a wonderful job in keeping the A's scoreless. But the A's had Dennis Eckersley, reckoned to be the best reliever in the game.

Send for Billy Bates. He came in as batting substitute for the pitcher, a pinch-hitter in the jargon. Amazed even to be asked to bat, he went up to the plate and got his hit. A hit from Chris Sabo advanced him to second.

Joe Oliver, the catcher, began the night being kissed by Barbara Bush, wife of the president, who took part in the quaint baseball ceremony of tossing out the first pitch. He came out to bat in the tenth with Bates representing the winning run, on second. "I've dreamed about this sort of thing," he said. "Reality is a lot more exciting."

And Oliver too made his hit, the ball flirring with foul territory but staying fair. Billy Bates put his head down and ran for glory. And got there.

The A's are now 2-0 down as the World Series leaves Cincinnati for Oakland. They have three home games to rediscover their mislaid oomphiness. As for Billy Bates: "Sometimes," he said, "it's better to be lucky than good."

SQUASH RACKETS

Referees seeking harmony

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN SYDNEY

THE International Squash Rackets Federation will be urged by its referees to institute mandatory player briefings before each tournament, so as to agree local ground rules that might prevent the sort of damaging diversity of view apparent over the past two weeks in the Mazda world women's championships.

As England rested here yesterday in preparation for a team semi-final against New Zealand — Australia meet Germany in the second semi-final — the ISRF refereeing chairman, Tony Swift, acknowledged that communication between players and officials was a mounting problem throughout the world.

"I think the refereeing has been generally good here, but the players have been technical and the press has picked up on their comments," Swift said.

"The problems seemed to stem from a decision here to toughen our attitude on marginal baulking in the back

corners of the court when moving back to the tee. The women's players association actually asked for this, but perhaps we should have made it absolutely clear to all the players individually that they were moving in this direction."

Lisa Oylee alleged "Aussie bias" here when two successive penalty strokes cost her a quarter-final against Robyn Lamourne. Martine Le Moignan said after losing the individual final to Susan Devoy that the referee was "the worst I have ever seen".

Far from accepting Swift's point on toughen refereeing, Le Moignan insisted that penalty strokes could be gained merely by lifting a racket. She even threatened of the un-demanding refereeing in her title-winning match.

Local headlines such as "Ref cop a bias" and "Referee takes rap" were not greatly enjoyed by officials bound by their own

rules from offering their views.

Even at the highest professional levels, referees are amateur enthusiasts who count themselves fortunate if they receive marginal expenses.

"It takes a special sort of person to make a squash referee," Swift said. "Not all players seem to acknowledge the importance to the development of the game."

"Player education may be as much an issue as refereeing incompetence. Certainly we can only benefit from greater communication and compulsory pre-tournament briefings may be the only way."

• TORONTO: Three Britons, Phil Kenyon, Phillip Whidcock and Adrian Davies were among the five seeds to fall in the second round of the Canadian Open Championships here yesterday (Reuters reports).

Result, page 39.

Law Report October 19 1990 House of Lords

Delegation of deportation decisions to immigration officers lawful

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another. Ex parte Oladchinde and Another. Ex parte

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths and Lord Ackner [Speeches October 18]

The secretary of state's authorisation of immigration officers at inspector level, not previously involved with the particular case, to act on his behalf in making provisional decisions to deport was a lawful devolution of his powers.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr S.A. Oladchinde and Mr J.C. Alexander from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Mann) (The Times March 16; [1990] 2 WLR 1195) upholding decisions by immigration inspectors authorising service on them of notices of intention to deport.

The Court of Appeal had reversed the order of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Pill) (The Times March 1; [1990] 2 WLR 1195) granting orders of *certiorari* to quash the decisions on the ground that immigration offi-

cers were the holders of a distinct and separate office and that the secretary of state could not authorise immigration inspectors to take such decisions on his behalf.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Nicholas Blake for Mr Alexander; Mr Ian Macdonald, QC and Mr Richard Scamell for Mr Oladchinde; Mr Michael Boffey, QC and Mr David Pamrick for the secretary of state.

LORD GRIFFITHS said that each of the appellants was subject to control under the Immigration Act 1971.

The first had taken employment and so had not observed the condition upon which he had been given leave to enter as a student. The second had been an overstayer since April 1985. Therefore each appellant was liable to deportation pursuant to section 3(5)(a) of the 1971 Act.

It was obvious that the secretary of state could not personally take every decision to deport an immigrant in breach of his condition of entry or who was an overstayer. The decision had to be taken by a person of suitable seniority in the Home Office for whom the secretary of state accepted responsibility.

That devolution of responsibility had been recognised as

practical necessity in the administration of government by the Court of Appeal in *Carlton Ltd v Commissioner of Works* [1983] 2 All ER 560.

In 1988 the secretary of state had decided that the initial decision to deport an immigrant liable to deportation under section 3(5)(a) should in future be taken by an inspector in the immigration service and not by a civil servant in the deportation section.

An inspector was of the equivalent grade to those in the deportation section who had previously been taking the decision to deport in section 3(5)(a) cases. Not all inspectors were given that authority.

It was limited to 14 out of a total of 52 inspectors and their authority was further limited to cases in which they had not previously been involved as immigration officers. Those nominated were all persons of long service and experience in the immigration service.

There was no dispute that both appellants were liable to be deported. The initial decision to deport was in a sense provisional as the case was again reviewed before the secretary of state was invited to sign the deportation order.

His Lordship appreciated, however, that the initial de-

cision was a serious matter setting in motion the deportation procedure which might be difficult to reverse.

Dealing first with a submission that the decision to deport should be taken by the immigration officers concerned and not by the inspectors, there was no evidence to support that submission which was based upon the assumption that there could not be a full appreciation of the case as a result of a telephone conversation.

His Lordship confined himself to some misuse about the practice of taking the decision to deport in that way, but it was not a practice introduced as a result of giving inspectors the power to take the decision, it had been first introduced in 1986 when decisions were still taken in the deportation section.

It had been submitted that immigration officers were the holders of a statutory office and as such were independent of the executive arm of government and could not have devolved upon them the exercise of the executive's powers.

Therefore it was said that the *Carlton* principle could not extend to cover the exercise of the secretary of state's powers by an immigration inspector.

Alternatively, it was submitted that if immigration officers were civil servants in the Home

Office the structure of the Act, which differentiated between the powers of immigration officers who were primarily concerned with entry control and subsequent policing of illegal immigrants, and the powers of the secretary of state in relation to deportation, carried with it a clear statutory implication that the powers of the secretary of state were not to be exercised by immigration officers.

His Lordship could not accept either submission. The status of immigration officers was not that of statutory office holders such as adjudicators or members of appeal tribunals who were referred to in the 1971 Act as office holders. Immigration officers were civil servants in the Home Office to whom were assigned specific statutory duties under the Act.

Parliament could of course limit a minister's power to devolve a decision and require him to exercise it in person. There were three examples of such a limitation in the 1971 Act: sections 13(5), 14(3) and 15(4).

There was no such limitation in respect of the decision to deport, nor would the Act be workable if there was such a limitation. Where his Lordship found in a statute three explicit limitations on the secretary of state's power to devolve he should be very slow to read into the statute a further implicit limitation.

The immigration service was comprised of Home Office civil servants for whom the secretary of state was responsible and there was no reason why he should not authorise members of that service to take decisions under the *Carlton* principle.

That the adjudicator could no longer do so section 5(1) confined the adjudicator to considering whether or not in a given case the evidence established that the immigrant was liable to deportation on the grounds stated in the notice of the decision to deport.

There was no question in the present appeal that there was in law power to make the deportation orders. The adjudicator had no jurisdiction to enquire into the propriety of the secretary of state's decision to allow immigration inspectors to take the decision to deport, nor had he jurisdiction to enquire into whether the decision had been taken by the immigration officers and not by the inspectors.

Those were matters relating to the exercise of the power and not with the existence of the power and were properly the subject of judicial review.

Lord Keith and Lord Templeman agreed, and Lord Ackner delivered concurring opinions.

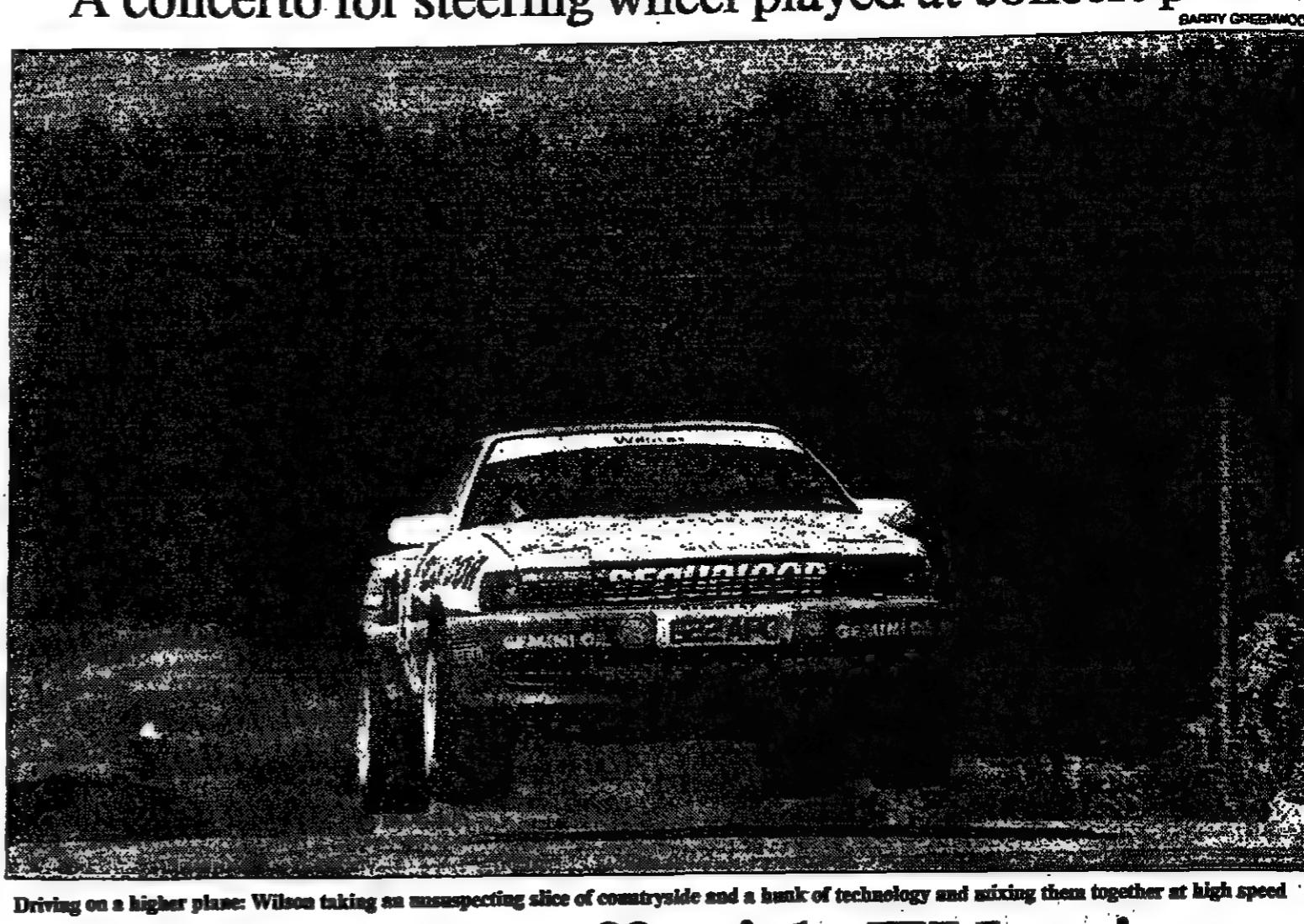
Solicitors: Ms Alison Stanley; Lewis Silkin; Treasury Solicitor.

Act 1988. In passing the 1988 Act, Parliament had taken the decision to curtail the appellate powers of adjudicators which had under section 19(1) of the 1971 Act enabled an adjudicator to substitute his own discretion for that of the secretary of state.

That the adjudicator could no longer do so section 5(1) confined the adjudicator to considering whether or not in a given case the evidence established that the immigrant was liable to deportation on the grounds stated in the notice of the decision to deport.

There was no evidence to support that suggestion and no reason why senior members of the service should be tarred with that image; and in any event their decisions were reviewed in the deportation department before the order was signed by the secretary of state.

The final question concerned the scope of the appeal against the decision to deport provided by section 5 of the Immigration



Driving on a higher plane: Wilson taking an unsuspecting slice of countryside and a hunk of technology and mixing them together at high speed.

Cinders zips off with TV prince

By ANDY MARTIN

RALLYING, traditionally perceived as an ugly sister to Formula One, has a chance of becoming a late-flowering Cinderella by marrying the handsome prince of television broadcasting. Like the successful Channel 4 series on sumo wrestling, the programmes promise to educate and seduce the uninited.

Perhaps the fascination of rallying is that it is a metaphor of human history since the invention of the wheel. You take an unsuspecting slice of countryside and a hunk of technology and mix the two at high speed.

At Gale Rigg, outside Scarborough, a steam train puffed by in the valley below and a jet fighter roared overhead as the cars zoomed along a gravel track, trailing clouds of dust behind them.

The five stages, spread around Wales, Yorkshire and the Isle of Man, juxtapose men looking like astronauts with pink-washed farmhouses and garden paths, flaming exhausts with sheep safely grazing, Ford Sierra Cosworths with ancient burial grounds.

Alessandro Fiorio took one stage in his Lancia Delta HF Integrale 16V. When he put his foot down, the G-forces tried to push me out through the boot; but he was going through the Star Gate in 2001: *A Space Odyssey*. Suddenly, I was in another dimension in which forests, farms, hillsides had been fed into a liquidiser and were being sprayed at me in a torrent.

People asked afterwards if I had been afraid. The truth is that I was beyond terror. I was awestruck.

Fiorio was not so much a driver as a virtuoso, a one-man orchestra playing a concerto for steering wheel, with pedals and six-speed gearbox accompaniment, and never straying from a false note. My life was in the hands of a maestro. If the programmes manage to reproduce this experience, anyone with

RUGBY UNION

International Board to keep firm grip on commercial reins

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE relaxation of rugby union's amateur regulations will not mean an outbreak of rampant commercialism among the 16 teams who compete for the World Cup in Britain, Ireland and France next year. "We lay down the commercial parameters," Keith Rowlands, secretary to Rugby World Cup (RWC), said yesterday.

Rowlands, who is also secretary to the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) which last week decided that players could profit from such activities as advertising, endorsements and media work, was speaking at a Rugby Union Writers' Club lunch in London where the guests included Russ Thomas and Marcel Martin, two of the three directors of RWC Ltd.

During the inaugural World Cup in New Zealand and Australia in 1987, overseas teams were interested to find

New Zealand internationals advertising a variety of products on television and in magazines.

Since then restrictions on players benefitting directly from such activities have been removed but Rowlands said: "No World Cup squad can sign a commercial agreement for its own promotion within the context of the tournament."

"They can only develop the commercial opportunities that we [RWC] release. Everything has to go through RWC who lay down the participation agreement which all competing teams must sign."

Clearly RWC can afford no contractual difficulties with the major tournament sponsors, though who they will be has yet to be announced. Thomas, chairman of RWC, declined to fuel speculation either about the likely money to be made or when sponsorship announcements would be

made.

Alan Callan, RWC's commercial advisor, has projected eight major sponsors contributing £16 million for advertising rights but Martin, who oversees RWC's commercial arm based in Rotterdam, said that Callan's role was as a broker seeking to create a maximum figure.

"Our role is not to antagonise figures we do not know we can achieve," he added, "although we would like to achieve Mr Callan's objective."

Whatever surplus accumulates from the 1991 tournament will be distributed according to the advice of a specially-established trust.

After the completion of the tournament, the first two World Cups will be analysed and it is unlikely that future tournaments will be distributed among several countries.

It is hoped that a decision can be made by the IRFB on the 1995 venue — for which South Africa, Canada, Argentina and Japan have applied — by the end of next year.

Next year's tournament includes major changes in the refereeing structure, in that the additional qualifying games required have given RWC the opportunity to assess the potential of officials from associate-member countries.

Jones did accept the dictate of the captain, Mark Egan, that they would first have to play in the junior side, the Greyhounds, if they wanted to win back their places in the first XV. They did this last weekend.

Despite that, Egan then told Jones that he would have to continue playing for the Greyhounds unless injuries or poor form forced changes. Jones and James refused to accept this and joined Harlequins, though they are still eligible for Oxford. Hein is believed to have been brought back because the Oxford side is weaker on the wings than at prop.

Egan said: "It is very unlikely that my guys will be back in the blues side. If they wanted to be in contention for a place they would have to be playing at the club. But we understand each other's position. Now, I want to concentrate totally on a tough series of matches."

Jones said: "I am definitely upset I am not back in the Oxford team. As blues, we never lost our place for playing reasons. I don't feel it was right to begin with and I don't feel it is right now; how we have been treated."

Oxford conclusion weakens potential

By PETER BILLS

OXFORD University look certain to face Cambridge in the University match without three of their available internationals now that six months of investigating at the club, arguments over constitutional amendments and disputes concerning the committee and certain playing practices have been resolved.

Brian Smith, last year's captain and an Irish international, will not play for Oxford again, and, unless there is an injury crisis, nor will the Australian international, Troy Coker, or the United States tight-head prop, Don James. However, the United States international wing, Gary Hein, makes his first appearance of the term in the first XV tomorrow.

Both James and another blueshirt at Oxford, the loose-head prop, Morgan Jones, who is an Australian under-21 international, have joined Harlequins and are expected to play for the second XV this weekend.

This will seriously weaken Oxford's chances in the University match, but the lack of a respected mediator has meant positions have become entrenched. However, James, Hein and

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ITV centre stage with satellite as bit players

GERALD DAVIES

THE next round of the four home unions' television rights contract will soon be decided. Whereas this was once the sole preserve of the BBC, it is no longer. Over the last four years, ITV has shown increased interest so that, although it failed to secure the home contract last time round, it negotiated successfully for the World Cup rights next year.

Whether it is really quite up to the rugby challenge, only an intensive four-week period next autumn will truly tell. Doubtless, it is.

The five nations' championship contract will last for a two-year period, beginning next September, and will be determined therefore without the benefit of knowing what the independent sector is capable of achieving. ITV secured the rights for all the southern hemisphere matches last summer but the scale of the operation for the European international game and the World Cup will be different, in form and degree, from the kind it offered from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina.

The submissions to the four home unions (France is excluded) will be made on November 14. ITV in the BBC in the afternoon. Not that the competition is likely to be limited to these old adversaries. Sky and BSF are also said to be in the contest. But because of the limited scope and viewership, as yet of satellite television, they can only participate as bit players. The primary rights for transmission will have to go to one of the terrestrial authorities who might care to

bed down with one of the satellite stations.

France decide for themselves in Paris. Just as ITV wrested the World Cup contract from the BBC, so Canar Plus will the contract from the established Andreu, which has always televised rugby in Spain.

What is likely to inhibit the proposals in Britain is that, as with the coverage of the international matches, the contractor will insist that there is a weekly rugby programme which will cover club matches and that this programme, one way or another, should give coverage to the others, and, in a sellers' market, appear on special occasions (six in Scotland and three in Ireland when they can opt out). *Rugby Special* provides a blanket transmission centralised in London.

BBC Wales, on its channel, has always transmitted its own rugby programme on Sunday. HTV, too, even within the limits imposed by the rugby contract, gives widespread coverage.

This programme has never fully recaptured the interest and following since it was decided to remove it from the early Saturday evening slot, where it began its long but, since then, always uncertain life. In the early days of the programme it captured its audience, at the club bar or at home, with its immediacy and sense of excitement.

There is no mass appeal in club rugby. At any rate, to be so placed was a luxury for the programme and, as it struggled, leaving the early evening slot, where it began its long but, since then, always uncertain life. In the early days of the programme it captured its audience, at the club bar or at home, with its immediacy and sense of excitement.

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The impression remains that the programme is accepted only in the sense of a loss leader to win the main prize. The rugby authorities know it. No other amateur sport can demand an hour-long weekly programme.

This is an area, too, which in the submissions put before the four home unions committee in November could give the BBC, with its enterprise arm, useful commercial leverage in any comprehensive package it puts forward in competition with ITV.

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He serves his 12-week period of eligibility before playing for England again, he will have the opportunity to play for various guest teams, and as well as appearing for the French Barbarians against his own countrymen on October 27, is likely to be invited in play for the original Barbarians against Argentina in Cardiff on November 17.

Shelford, who played only 72 hours after arriving in England, has a slight throat infection anyway. "Monday was the first time I had trained for 12 days," he said. "A couple of games to

get me on the road and I'll be right."

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SPORT

England manager unlikely to make sweeping changes

By STUART JONES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
GRAHAM Taylor preferred yesterday to sidestep the criticism of his one controversial selection, that of Steve Bull in the forward line, of the England team that beat Poland 3-0, and to examine instead the defensive deficiencies. The England manager said that he was so disenchanted, that halfway through the European championship qualifying tie against Poland, he considered changing his sweeper system.

He was reluctant during the interval to harangue his players in only his second international, but he "let them know that they were not doing quite what we wanted them to". Before he could judge their response, Gary Lineker was injured and any thoughts of rearrangements had to be dismissed.

He noticed during the match against Hungary last month that his side was stretched over some 70 yards. He wanted the players to move up and down the pitch as a compact unit, measuring no more than 40 yards, but the instructions were evidently not fully heeded. "There was not much improvement," he said.

Although Taylor did not name the culprits, the blame lies with Paul Parker. Des-

In spite of their unusually cultured performance against

FA hears League's case for one voice

By DENNIS SIGNY

THE ten-man executive committee of the FA will consider proposals by the Football League for a joint board of management to oversee the national game at its meeting next month.

At its routine monthly meeting held at the League's London offices yesterday, the executive privately heard a presentation entitled "One Game, One Team, One Voice - Managing Football's Future," outlined by Arthur Sandford, the League's chief executive, and Trevor Phillips, the commercial director.

The League's proposals, including a plan to try to bring the 1998 World Cup to England, will be made public today.

The FA executive agreed in principle in May to a board of management. What has still to be determined is the power the board will have in relation to the present committee and the input of League representatives to present "one voice." There is support for a stronger body at the helm than

Group seven

RESULTS: Republic of Ireland 5, Turkey 0; England 2, Poland 0.
RECENT RESULTS: 1990: Nov 16: Republic of Ireland v England: Turkey v Poland. 1989: Mar 27: England v Republic of Ireland. Apr 17: England v Poland. May 11: Turkey. Aug 11: Republic of Ireland v Poland. Oct 16: England v Turkey; Poland v Republic of Ireland. Nov 13: Poland v England; Turkey v Republic of Ireland.

Walker and Mark Wright. Instead of pushing forward in support of Paul Gascoigne and David Platt, who were outnumbered in midfield, they stayed back and gave themselves little choice but to distribute long and invariably wayward passes.

"I wanted them to step up and give our attackers as much opportunity as possible to display their abilities in the opposition's half," Taylor said. "We've got so much pace at the back that we can cover breaks and not many international sides look for the ball over the top anyway."

Although the sweeper system is preferred by the players and the benefits were vividly illustrated during the World Cup finals, Taylor indicated that he is not necessarily committed to retaining it. Yet it would be inadvisable to dispense with the ploy in the next match, in Dublin on November 14.

In spite of their unusually cultured performance against

Bobby Charlton, Colin Bell, Mick Channon and Kevin Keegan, among others, did not feel comfortable in the national side until they had featured in a dozen games or so. Yet their qualities were unmistakable and were sure eventually to blossom. Bull has not yet produced convincing evidence that he will similarly develop.

Nevertheless, Taylor deflects even veiled misgivings about Bull's limited ability.

When asked, for instance, whether he might on reflection have selected a different strike-force against the Poles, he replied without hesitation: "If we were playing the game again tomorrow, I might not start with the same defence."

He may choose to make one change. Assuming that Walker will mark Aldridge in Dublin, it would be ludicrously optimistic to expect the diminutive Paulton to counter the threat of either Quina or Casciarini in the air. Wright and Parker may therefore swap roles, or Adams or Pallister could be brought in.

There is otherwise no urgent need to alter the side which will again be led by Lineker.

Taylor's first genuine experiments are likely to take place against African opponents. Before the game against Cameroon at Wembley in February, a B international will probably be staged on December 12. The hosts have yet to be confirmed, but they are expected to be either Algeria or Morocco.

The FA has already started the process of applying to host the 1996 European championships as well as the World Cup two years later.

Kicking up the dust in a World Series of continued upset



Zarei sets pace to tear up all records

By ROBERT HOWARD

JAMES Zarei, aged 46, the Iranian-born ultra-distance runner living in London and running for Britain, is on his way to breaking British and world records in the NALGO six-day race at the Gateshead international stadium.

During the race, which began last Saturday and will finish at noon today, the runners have circled the 400-metre track day and night aiming to cover the greatest possible distance within six days.

They have been free to stop and eat or sleep whenever they wish, but Zarei was off the track for only 12 hours in the first five days and plans to continue running right through the last day. Averaging an astonishing 100 miles per day, he completed 511.6 miles in five days, which was enough to beat last year's winning distance of 510 miles, set by David Cooper.

Although he has run multi-day races all over the world, Zarei is competing in his first six-day event and as he has remorselessly pounded his way around the Gateshead track he has out-distanced a field of international runners drawn from 11 different countries, taking British records for four and five days in the process.

He has also been covering a greater distance each day and the possibility that he will run further on the sixth day than he has on any of the other five could put the world record within reach.

That is 635 miles set by Yiannis Kouros, of Greece, in New York in 1984. Since then only two other runners, both French, have passed the 600-mile mark.

Zarei is also aiming to beat the British record of 623.75 miles, set in a professional race at Madison Square Garden 102 years ago by George Littlewood.

In the late 19th century six-day races were popular attractions, drawing crowds in their thousands, but Littlewood set his record as interest declined.

The doping of Bravefoot and Norwich at Doncaster and Flying Diva at Yarmouth are now being linked together by South Yorkshire detectives.

Browne to appear in court today

By RICHARD EVANS

A LAMBOURN trainer questioned by police over the doping of racehorses will appear before Doncaster magistrates this morning. Dermot Browne aged 28, was charged with criminal offences last night but it is understood they do not relate to the doping of horses.

The former National Hunt amateur champion jockey was arrested in Lambourn on Wednesday and taken to Doncaster police station where he has been questioned by detectives.

The doping of Bravefoot and Norwich at Doncaster and Flying Diva at Yarmouth are now being linked together by South Yorkshire detectives.

Journeymen strike back

From a CORRESPONDENT IN QUINTA DO LAGO

NICK Faldo and Severiano Ballesteros were yesterday given a blunt message by the rank and file professionals of the European Golf Tour. A meeting of competitors after the first round of the Portuguese Open at Quinta do Lago gave unanimous approval to the administration to draft new regulations designed to eliminate the practice of paying appearance-money.

According to Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, and the tournament committee under the chairmanship of John O'Leary, will shortly outlaw the payment of appearance guarantees by sponsors and tournament promoters and are prepared to stop dealing with any sponsor that refuses to comply with the "no pay for play" dictum.

The move will immediately bring the Tour into conflict with Europe's leading golfers and their agents, and Ballesteros has already signalled his opposition to any attempt to curb this lucrative source of income. This season alone, he is believed to have received over £750,000 appearance-money from his 14 tournament appearances in Europe.

Faldo, whose own fee is reputed to match the £60,000

which the Spaniard receives, would suffer a similar loss of income. Others who will be affected are Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Ian Woosnam, Ronan Rafferty, and José María Olazábal.

Schofield and O'Leary regard the business of appearance-money paid simply to secure the presence of Europe's "magificent seven" as an issue of morality and principle. "It has been an issue for ten years, but now the time is right to deal with the situation," O'Leary said.

"The membership are urging us to take action, our main tour sponsors, Volvo, are making a stand, and the national federations are in agreement," Schofield said.

"The majority of the sponsors have indicated they will go along with us. All bar two of the players I have spoken to on this matter say they will forego appearance fees if they can be sure others would not be getting them."

"There can be no half-way measures. It's all or nothing and we are prepared to go as far as removing a sponsor from the Tour if he continues to pay out money for appearance fees."

The administrators' first task will be to specifically define an appearance fee and then issue guidelines to all sponsors. Schofield believes

such a document can be ready by the end of this year.

"We don't want players being paid to go to the first team," he said, "but the only way ahead is to concentrate on those who pay out rather than those who negotiate for and receive the money."

"For a sponsor or promoter to pay £150,000 to secure players for his tournament is the unacceptable face of appearance-money. That will definitely not be allowed to continue."

"We have shown sponsors what is the acceptable face by introducing champions' challenges and shoot-outs, and we would accept corporate agreements such as that in which Bernhard Langer was paid by a British company, ICI, to play in the German Open."

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coming regulations, which will replace rule five of the Tour's standing instructions. That merely forbids a golfer to ask a sponsor for appearance-money and does not prevent any agent seeking payment on his behalf or any tournament organiser offering an inducement.

He added: "It is bad enough when you get someone who says I won't play in your tournament because it is not good enough and does not carry enough prize-money. But for a golfer to say to a fellow professional that I am not playing alongside you unless I am paid is against the rules."

One of the rank and file, Magnus Persson, of Sweden, took a three-shot lead despite finishing in near darkness after a freak rain storm caused a one-hour delay. He cut the 7,123-yard Kina-course down to size after shortening his irons by an inch, but it was his putter that wreaked havoc to produce nine birdies in a round of 64.

LEADERSHIP and round success (as last week) unless stated: 64: M. Persson (Swe), 67: S. Richardson, G. Turner, O. Selberg (Swe), 68: M. James, G. Brand (Irl), R. Hohmann (Us), and I. Morris (Eng); 1. 71: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 2. 70: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 3. 71: R. McFarlane, D. A. Russell, S. Tingay (Den), P. T. Hart (Eng), S. Richardson, G. Turner, O. Selberg (Swe), 65: M. James, G. Brand (Irl), A. Brink (Swe), 72: P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 4. 73: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 5. 74: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 6. 75: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 7. 76: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 8. 77: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 9. 78: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 10. 79: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 11. 80: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 12. 81: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 13. 82: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 14. 83: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 15. 84: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 16. 85: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 17. 86: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 18. 87: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 19. 88: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 20. 89: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 21. 90: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 22. 91: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 23. 92: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 24. 93: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 25. 94: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 26. 95: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 27. 96: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 28. 97: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 29. 98: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 30. 99: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 31. 00: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 32. 01: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 33. 02: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 34. 03: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 35. 04: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 36. 05: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 37. 06: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 38. 07: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 39. 08: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 40. 09: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 41. 10: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 42. 11: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 43. 12: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T. Hart (Eng); 44. 13: D. R. Jones, M. Ron, C. Montenegro, B. Ogle (Aus), P. McWhinney (Aus), J. Haeseler, D. Smyth, P. T